



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(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, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201-3355, Telephone (214) 720-0550
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

July 23, 1985

85-85

North, South Korea Visits May
Help Baptists Find Loved Ones

By Erich Bridges

PANMUNJOM, Korea (BP)—Millions of Koreans, including many Baptists, finally might learn the fate of loved ones they haven't seen for a generation if a new agreement between North and South Korea sets the stage for regular family contacts.

For the first time in 40 years, officials of both Koreas have agreed to allow a small group of family members separated by the division of the country to visit each other. The Red Cross-sponsored agreement, reached in principle July 15, may enable 300 South Koreans to visit their families and hometowns in North Korea in September. The same number of North Koreans would be allowed to visit relatives in the south.

An estimated 10 million family members were torn apart by the war that cut Korea in half. Kim Sung Chin is one of them. Kim was a young Christian medical student in Pyongyang (capital of North Korea) when war suddenly came in June 1950. He hid in a mountain cave with three friends until South Korean troops pushed north in the seesaw battle for the Korean peninsula.

Today Kim, a respected Baptist physician in South Korea, directs community health work at Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan. He has not seen or spoken to his parents and three sisters in North Korea for 35 years.

"No communications. Probably my parents have died," Kim said. "I don't know. I just felt at that time that it would be temporary...a few days later and we would be back! Or a few weeks or a few months, we would meet again. Not any long separation like this. I never, never thought that. Sad."

Not all separated family members live on opposite sides of the north-south line. Multitudes of South Korean relatives separated when invading communist troops swept south have never relocated each other.

A 1983 Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) television program featuring South Koreans looking for lost loved ones became a national phenomenon. The program turned into a 65-hour telethon spread over eight days, reuniting some 3,000 families in the south within a month.

Tens of thousands applied to appear on the show. Their names and family data since have been entered in a computer bank jointly sponsored by KBS-TV and the government to match relatives electronically. But Koreans' small number of family names--almost half the population of both Koreas is named Kim, Park or Lee--complicates the process.

Thousands of placards still plaster the outer walls of the KBS building in Seoul, covering every scrap of space from ground to 15-foot line. Each tells the story of a family divided. A mother searches for her two sons. Another parent seeks five children, two sisters and a brother. The eyes of a toddler stare out of an old photograph; reared in an orphanage and now middle-aged, he doesn't remember where he was born or even if the name he carries is his own.

Many of the signs are faded by time. Yet when they become unreadable, their owners often return to replace them.

Fading hopes for those with family members in North Korea have revived once again with the resumption this summer of full-scale Red Cross talks between north and south. The first such negotiations in 12 years, the talks are partly aimed at hammering out a framework for reuniting families split apart by the division of Korea, at least through letters or brief visits.

--more--

"There is a 50-50 chance this time" for family visits, predicts Yim Yong Soon, a Korean scholar who teaches in the United States. "The question is, who goes?"

But hopes raised by negotiations, and the July 15 agreement, have been crushed so often that many people refuse to hope at all. "No seeing, no believing," said retired Baptist layman Yoon She Hoon, who left his parents, sisters, wife and two sons in the north in 1950, sure that he would soon return for them. But he does not forget. "I always remember my family. I never forget."

Yoon eventually remarried in South Korea and has three daughters and a son. His son, Yoon Soknam, now a college student, often wonders about his two half brothers in the north. "They are my brothers," he explained. "No one can deny this. But what can I say? I have never seen them, ever. They are my brothers. I hope to see them, one day."

—30—

(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist papers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press
(Bridges recently has returned from a three-week reporting trip to South Korea.)

Bible Drill Winner
Aided By Blind Mother

By Connie Davis

Baptist Press
7/23/85

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)—Dorothy Hayes was one of the many parents who helped 882 children participate in the Tennessee Children's Bible Drills in June. But she also was the only one who used Braille.

As a church training teacher for that age group at First Baptist Church, Spencer, she encouraged all the children to be in the Bible drill. She and her 11-year-old daughter, Leslie Ann, began preparing in February although this was Leslie Ann's second year to compete.

While Leslie Ann read the 25 verses the children must memorize and the key passages they must look up, Hayes, who has been blind since birth, translated them into Braille.

Using the Braille notes, Hayes called out the verses for Leslie Ann to quote and the key passages and books of the Bible for her daughter to look up within the required 10-second time limit. Practicing at least an hour a day for about five months, Hayes explained she had nearly memorized everything too.

The mother and daughter did not attend the competition alone. Dusty, Hayes' new lead dog, came with them. Their church sponsored the trip last September to Rochester, Mich., for Hayes to be trained with Dusty.

Leslie Ann made fewer than four errors in the Bible drill, making her a state winner.

Hayes got to hear the story about the drills on the weekly cassette tape recording of the Baptist and Reflector which is distributed each week to blind persons in Tennessee. She is also preparing to serve as president of the Woman's Missionary Union at her church beginning in the fall.

—30—

(Connie Davis is assistant editor of the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector.)

WMU Week Theme
'Multiply The Vision'

By Carol Garrett

Baptist Press
7/23/85

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—"Who is alive today because of you? Who has heard the message of salvation today because of you?" Ruth Bagwell asked more than 1,000 women and men gathered at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center for WMU week.

Bagwell's question went to the heart of the week's theme "Multiple The Vision." Conferences and speakers were designed to cause women to recognize their own personal mission responsibility and also their responsibility in enlisting others in mission support.

—more—

Bagwell, a retired Florida WMU staff member was Bible study leader for the week.

God has called each woman to witness in a world of lostness and loneliness, said WMU President Dorthy Sample. "If you put every kind of Christian believer in the world together last year there were only 2.3 million new believers," she said.

Sample called the audience to challenge the "group think" and find fresh ways to respond to the world. She said Vision 88, the WMU plan to have two million members by 1988, was an ideal opportunity to "make big plans and then let the God of biggest multiple through us." Personal commitment is the key to Christian witness, she continued. "God doesn't call us to save the whole world but does call us to respond to those moments in our individual lives."

Such personal commitment leaves a long legacy according to Sylva Rego, a Brazilian native who is now serving as a Southern Baptist home missionary in Portland, Ore. "I do believe Annie Armstrong was praying for me almost 100 years ago when she prayed for William and Ann Bagbee, first Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil," Rego said.

God has determined people "like you and me" are to be involved in his redemptive plan, R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president said. Intercessory prayer is the basic part of activity with Jesus Christ, he said. "It is the intercessors who pray for the power of God to change the destiny of the world," Parks said.

Sunday morning worship included a memorial service for the late Mrs. Marie Mathis, former WMU SBC national president and internationally involved Baptist leader.

"Mrs. Mathis looked into our lives and saw our potential and helped us to become what we could be. 'Help the women is our prayer heritage from Marie Mathis,'" Carolyn Weatherford, WMU SBC executive director said. Alma Hunt, former executive director of WMU, SBC, called Mathis a "tradition breaker and a tradition maker who's reach has circled the globe."

Edna Gutierrez, president of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department and Dorothy Neal, North American Women's Union president were among those participating.

In other meetings Southern Baptist missionaries brought personal commitment close to home. "One out of five adults in America today can't do what Jesus did when he got up at the synagogue and read the Bible. To them the Bible is a closed book," said Kendale Moore, HMB consultant. Literacy missions is a way to meet basic human needs as Jesus met them, and this specialized type of missions not only makes works known but "makes the word known," he said.

Conferees had an opportunity to have personal contact with missionaries through nightly missions vespers and Sunday schools with the missionaries.

The Cooperative Program was the emphasis of one afternoon. Cecil Ray, director of National Planned Growth in Giving, asked the audience to take on a commitment to growth in their individual lives and also in their churches.

"Cooperative Program Spree" celebrated the 60th birthday of the Cooperative Program with a carnival type atmosphere. Participants strolled a "midway" complete with games, prizes, movies and puppets all related to the Cooperative Program. WMU week closed with a presentation of "Til Millions Know" performed by the choir of First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M.

--30--

Southern Baptist Deaf Ministry
Planned At World Games For Deaf

Baptist Press
7/23/85

LOS ANGELES (BP)—Southern Baptists were the only religious group represented in the opening day ceremonies parade at the 15th World Games for the Deaf, which began July 10 at the University of California at Los Angeles stadium.

The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf (S.B.C.D.) had a representative group in the opening day ceremonies parade at Drake Stadium on the UCLA campus, site of the 1984 Summer Olympics. It was the only religious group invited to participate in the parade.

--more--

The "Texas White Boots," a group of 18 Southern Baptists, followed deaf athletes representing 40 countries into the UCLA stadium. The group, which includes 11 deaf people, then performed for the nearly 7,000 people gathered at opening ceremonies for the 15th World Games for the Deaf.

During the 10-day competition, the team, made up of members from Tennessee, Texas, New York, New Mexico, Alabama and Louisiana, will sponsored concerts and worship services.

The group also staffed a booth and served free ethnic foods and refreshments prepared by Southern Baptist ethnic congregations in Southern California.

While athletes compete, the team will take to the streets for mime and other drama presentations. Group members also will participate in street evangelism and will provide personal counseling for athletes and visitors, explained M. Rodney Webb, assistant director of ethnic church growth for the Home Mission Board.

The World Games for the Deaf local coordinating committee also asked the Baptist team to provide assistance in translating for athletes, noted Webb.

During the 10-day Olympic-style competition, two Southern Baptist chaplains will live with the athletes, at least three of whom are Southern Baptists.

Carter Bearden, language missions consultant in deaf ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and Clifford Bruffey, protestant chaplain at Gallaudet College in Washington, the only liberal arts college for the deaf in the world, will serve as chaplains. Both men are deaf and have experience in working with deaf internationals.

In addition to ministering to individuals attending the games, Southern Baptists hoped to begin five new ministries to the deaf in the Los Angeles area, said Webb.

Currently, only First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Calif., sponsors a Southern Baptist deaf ministry in the metropolitan area, which is home to about 50,000 deaf people.

The Southern Baptist team, which includes several Texas BSU summer missionaries and HMB summer missionary Yvette Aarons of New York, a deaf student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, had been in California since June preparing for its on-site ministries. Two other deaf teams from Texas Baptist churches will later join the Texas White Boots group.

On the first Sunday of the Deaf Olympics, the team sponsored two worship services for athletes and tourists and provided Bibles to all American athletes and to as many international athletes as possible.

The World Games for the Deaf, held every four years, were first played in 1924 in Paris, France. They were last held in the United States in Washington in 1965.

—30—

Recognize, React To Abuse
Children's Leaders Told

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press
7/23/85

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—"Because we are called to be channels of God's love we can no longer afford to ignore the issue of child abuse," a denominational childhood educator told persons attending a conference during Church Training Leadership Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"I am sure we feel like the topic of child abuse belongs with the clinical social worker," said Kathryn Chapman, assistant professor of childhood education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. "But as church leaders this is something we all come in touch with because, under the right circumstances, anyone, regardless of social standing, is a potential child abuser."

—more—

Admonishing conferees to minister to persons on both sides of the abuse, Chapman said, "We need to embrace the hurt child as well as the one who has done the hurting."

As ministers to children one of the most important things parents and leaders can do is to be aware of the differences between discipline and abuse, according to Chapman. "Abuse is consistent, negative behavior by adults toward children. It can take the form of emotional, physical or sexual abuse," she said.

Explaining discipline teaches correct behavior and models Jesus' example of love and forgiveness Chapman said, "discipline should be done in love. When we discipline a child we say 'I love you but I don't have to like what you've done.' But when abuse occurs adults are usually working from a hidden agenda that has nothing to do with the child."

Chapman identified some of the common factors that are associated with child abusers, including adults who were abused as children, adults with a low self-esteem, family crises, extreme emotional stress, families with 'special' children and adults who don't understand the developmental stages of a child.

"You have a legal obligation to report child abuse, but don't stop there," she stressed. "You cannot rescue the child and leave the family alone. We as leaders are to live out our theology of practicing a love that shows forgiveness and grace."

Chapman challenged children's leaders to educate themselves and know social and referral programs that are available in their area. "Find a good trustworthy adult in your church who can help you," she said.

She believes the church needs to take a "more neighborly" approach to ministry by providing confidentiality, friendship and a helping hand. "Sometimes a small act of kindness may take away the pain and stress of a parent that otherwise might be directed toward the child," she explained. "As church leaders we must maintain a non-judgmental relationship, modeling the love of Jesus Christ in our lives."

Chapman was one of the featured conference leaders during this year's Church Training Leadership Week at Ridgecrest. More than 2,700 people were registered for the conference.

—30—

Overseas Music Missions
Provides Freedom, Challenge

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
7/23/85

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—The goal of music missionaries should be to work themselves out of jobs, according to Cathie and Mike Meadows, who spent five years in Japan.

Speaking to participants in a music missions class at the Church Music Leadership Conference at Glorieta Baptist (N.M.) Conference Center, the Meadows, now of First Baptist Church, Clovis, N.M., said music missionaries are persons who train musically interested persons to take over the leadership responsibilities in the churches.

"Start with the basics" and "don't take anything for granted" are two rules the couple presented as essential to new music missionaries.

"Overseas, you write your own materials ranging from how to beat rhythms to how to use music to teach spiritual truths," they said. However, they cautioned missionaries should let persons be Christians of their own cultures—not Western Christians.

"In order to communicate, you may have to come down off your musical technique," Cathie Meadows said. "But when people start expressing themselves, it doesn't matter if they aren't on key. We shouldn't get so rigid in our musical background that we can't hear their expression of worship."

—more—

Music provides an opportunity for outreach in other cultures, they said citing their experience in Japan where "people would come to a concert of music by Bach and Handel when they wouldn't come to hear a preacher at all."

Converting persons to Christianity in cultures where such a commitment could mean a loss of job and alienation from family takes a long time, the Meadows said. They observed many well-meaning people fail to realize cultural problems and, therefore, are inclined to push for decisions too early.

Mike Meadows said on one occasion a visiting U.S. choir, which spent one night in the homes of Japanese persons, made an appeal for commitment to Christ following their concert. "People responded out of respect for their new friends," Meadows said, "but those of us who remained after the choir had gone saw no long-lasting effects of the 'decisions.'"

Southern Baptists have 92 career music missionaries in 34 countries, they said, and they expect the numbers to increase.

"Most musicians are creative individuals, and they like freedom to be creative," Mike Meadows said. "The mission field gives you that freedom. But there needs to be a real heart-felt pull and leadership of God," he cautioned. "You have to have a calling, because sometimes the calling is all that keeps you there."

They urged persons interested in exploring careers in music missions to contact the Foreign Mission Board or the Home Mission Board.

—30—

Alcohol Ad Legislation Gets Baptist Support

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
7/23/85

WASHINGTON (BP)—Legislation dealing with broadcast advertising of alcohol may provide Southern Baptists with "the best vehicle in recent years for influencing public policy related to alcohol abuse," according to Foy Valentine, executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

Legislation introduced in the House by Rep. John Seiberling, D-Ohio, would require television stations to provide time for public service announcements or programming about alcohol misuse equivalent to the time used for beer and wine commercials. H.R. 2526, the Fairness in Alcohol Advertising Act, is being supported by a variety of health and religious organizations concerned about the national epidemic of alcohol abuse.

Companion legislation has yet to be introduced in the Senate, but supporters hope a recent briefing for Senate aides will generate momentum. The briefing was sponsored by Project SMART (Stop Marketing Alcohol on Radio and Television), a national campaign supported by Valentine and the Christian Life Commission.

During the briefing, media analyst Jean Kilbourne described alcohol advertising as "myth-making, not the presentation of information." Although "this is true of all advertising," only alcohol advertising promotes "America's No. 1 drug and cause of health problems," she said.

Kilbourne, a board member of the National Council on Alcoholism, outlined America's increasing problem of alcohol abuse:

—About one adult in 10 who drinks alcohol is an alcoholic. One adult in three who drinks has a drinking problem.

—Ten percent of all deaths in the U.S. are alcohol-related. Alcohol abuse is involved in 60 percent of the cases of child abuse.

—Each week more than 400 fatalities result from alcohol-related traffic accidents, the equivalent of a major airline crash weekly. "Can you imagine the public outcry if a major airliner crashed weekly?" Kilbourne asked.

—One teenager in four is already an alcoholic or the victim of a drinking problem.

—more—

--Twenty-eight million children live with at least one parent who abuses alcohol.

Alcohol advertising, Kilbourne claimed, contributes to this growing problem.

She pointed out the alcohol industry each year spends \$1 billion on advertising. Network television carries about 5,000 alcohol ads annually. Much of the advertising, she added, is aimed at heavy drinkers--the 11 percent of adults who consume one-half of all the alcohol sold in this nation.

Unless the networks are required to provide the opportunity for "counter-advertising," the glamorization of drinking portrayed in thousands of alcohol ads will continue to go largely unchallenged, she said.

Despite interest generated by the briefing, Valentine and other supporters of H.R. 2526 admit enactment of the bill will be difficult. "This is one of those pieces of legislation which many members of Congress hope will die a quiet death," Valentine said. "It is our responsibility as Christians to see that it gets full conderation."

Valentine pointed out Southern Baptists will have a timely opportunity to contact members of Congress while lawmakers are in their home states and districts during the August recess.

"Thus far, the moving force behind the legislation has been a coalition of health organizations from the North and Northeast," he said. "Southern Baptists can help significantly by joining is moral crusade and securing the support of legislators from our various states."

--30--

Dunn Protests U.S.-Funded
Broadcasts Of Mass To Cuba

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
7/23/85

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M. Dunn has protested the weekly broadcast into Cuba of the Roman Catholic Mass over U.S.-funded Radio Marti.

In a letter to U.S. Rep. Bill Alexander, D-Ark., Dunn expressed alarm at the practice, revealed recently in an article in The Miami Herald. "Religious radio is no part of the business of government," Dunn said.

While stating the Baptist Joint Committee does not object to news reports about religion or discussion of religious topics on Voice of America broadcasts, he quoted Thomas Jefferson's maxim that "to compel a man to pay taxes for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical."

Reports of the practice over Radio Marti, which began broadcasting into the Communist nation May 20, were confirmed by Voice of America spokeswoman Rogene Waite, who said her agency's charter includes a provision for religious programming which "reflect(s) religion in the United States."

Other religious programming over Radio Marti, she said, includes a weekly half-hour "ecumenical" program featuring religion in the news and a "roundtable" discussion with personalities from the world of religion.

In addition, Waite said, Voice of America--which broadcasts in 42 languages around the world, primarily into Communist-controlled nations--presents "ad hoc" religious programs during Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious holidays.

In a telephone interview, she also said Voice of America has been broadcasting the Mass into Poland since the December 1981 imposition of martial law in that eastern European country.

Congressman Alexander, an Episcopalian, read Dunn's letter into the Congressional Record July 17 during debate over an administration request to increase funding for Radio Marti in fiscal year 1986 from the current \$8.5 million to \$11.2 million. An amendment to freeze the spending at this year's level then was adopted by voice vote.

--30--

Dying Missionary Recruits Nurse
For Christ, Cameroon Missions

TURIN, Italy (BP)—An Italian Baptist missionary to Cameroon, suffering from a rare tropical disease, spent her final days in a hospital in Turin, Italy as an evangelist.

Rita D'Isanto, who died at the age of 51, went to the equatorial forest region of Cameroon in western Africa with her husband, Luigi, two years ago. They were appointed by the European Baptist Mission in 1982.

The couple returned to Europe in April after Mrs. D'Isanto had received eight months of treatment in Cameroon for a disease that had damaged her liver and generally weakened her. Specialists in tropical medicine in Paris and Turin failed to find a way to arrest the disease and she died July 3.

Southern Baptist missionary Stanley Crabb reports Mrs. D'Isanto, in a Turin hospital, "used the time to tell her nurse about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ," rather than "expressing regret or bitterness." The nurse became a Christian and "desires to serve Christ in Cameroon," according to Crabb. The nurse has contacted Italian Baptist representatives of the European Baptist Mission about opportunities for service.

Mrs. D'Isanto's husband said his wife's illness began after she was bitten by an insect in a Cameroon marketplace last year.

The couple worked in a village in southern Cameroon and had made trips of several weeks to remote forest villages, often on foot, spending nights in the open air.

—30—

Former Missionary To Enlist
Preachers For Foreign Field

Baptist Press
7/23/85

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Former missionary and pastor William L. Morgan has been promoted to direct the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's efforts to find preachers, its greatest overseas personnel need.

Morgan, who came to the board June 19 as an associate director in the volunteer enlistment department, became director of the missionary enlistment department effective July 22. The department was created a little more than a year ago to expand the board's efforts to fill positions in overseas evangelism and church development.

Before joining the board staff Morgan had been pastor of Wells Station Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., since 1981. He and his wife, the former Noreta Smith of Memphis, were Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil for 16 years.

About three-fourths of the most urgent personnel requests from missionaries throughout the world are for preachers.

"Dr. Morgan has had an interest in calling out preaching missionaries across the years," said Harlan E. Spurgeon, the board's vice-president for human resources. "As a missionary to Brazil he often saw the many unmet requests for preachers and sought to challenge preachers while he was on furlough. This is the kind of person we are looking for."

Morgan was born in Drew, Miss., but grew up in Memphis. He is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and received master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife have three grown children.

The position became vacant when John Floyd resigned July 9 to return to Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, as vice-president for development.

—30—

Elliff Practices What He Preaches;
Takes Team from Church to Africa

By Evelyn Knapp

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (BP)--Less than a month after stressing missions during a theme interpretation at the Southern Baptist Convention, Tom Elliff showed he practices what he preaches.

Elliff led a five-man team from his church, Applewood Baptist Church, Lakewood, Colo., to Kasulu and Kigoma, Tanzania, for two weeks of teaching and preaching in one of the most remote areas in this East African country.

Using several modes of transportation--four-wheel drive vehicles, boats, canoes and walking--the team crisscrossed this area around Lake Tanganyika made famous by Henry Stanley, David Livingstone and the Arab slave traders of earlier generations.

Because of the influence of the early slave traders, a higher concentration of Muslims is found in the villages around Kigoma than in other parts of the interior and the spread of Christianity has been slower there. But 140 professions of faith and 60 rededications were recorded while the team was there.

The team began with a three-day seminar for the local pastors. The visiting Americans had the thrill of seeing the lessons they had taught practiced in the lives of the local pastors as they went to the churches for evangelistic meetings.

Two missionaries, Maurice Marrow, a general evangelist since 1967, and Rollie Ennis, an agriculturist appointed in 1974, were hosts for the team. The area has 36 Baptist congregations.

Along with Elliff, a missionary to Zimbabwe 1981-83, the team consisted of Ralph Speas, associate pastor of Applewood; A. L. Lyth, a geologist; Russell McKendry, a builder; and Box Oxford, an engineer, all of Lakewood.

--30--

(Evelyn Knapp is Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Tanzania.)

Centrifuge Equipment
Stolen At Ohio Motel

Baptist Press
7/23/85

NASHVILLE (BP)--Equipment valued at more than \$5,000 in addition to a van and trailer were stolen July 20 from a traveling Centrifuge faculty group stopped overnight at a motel in Middleburg, Ohio, near Cleveland.

The Centrifuge faculty, one of two traveling teams under the sponsorship of the church recreation department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been leading summer camps for 7th- to 12th-grade Youth in Midwest and Northeast states.

The 11 seminary and graduate students were spending the night enroute to Bambi Lake, state Baptist encampment in Michigan, when the van, trailer and contents were stolen.

Local police said they believe professional thieves stole the rented van and trailer, because the lock on the passenger side had been cut out with a blow torch and was discarded near where the van was parked.

In addition to 40 backpacks, 40 sleeping bags, and 10 tents, also lost were materials, recreation and audiovisual equipment. Trunks containing all but an overnight change of clothes for the workers were stolen with the equipment.

A second van used by the students was parked away from the stolen van and trailer, so the group had crowded transportation to the nearby home of parents of one of the faculty members who loaned them a van until another could be rented to complete the summer.

--more--

Even with the delay of working with local police to list lost property, the counselors arrived on schedule at Bambi Lake July 22 to start the next Centrifuge. Materials to replace much what was stolen were flown to Michigan by the board's church recreation department.

Don Mattingly, special services coordinator in the church recreation department, expressed gratitude none of the students was hurt. He estimated 22,000 youth and their adult sponsors will attend Centrifuge camps this summer at several locations throughout the United States.

---30---

Just Two Evangelical Bookstores Serve Colombian City Of 500,000

LIVINGSTON, Texas (BP)—In the United States it would be hard to fathom a metropolitan area of 500,000 people with only two evangelical bookstores. In Ibague, Colombia, as in many other booming Third World cities, such ministries can be counted on one hand.

One of the two evangelical bookstores in Ibague, 10th largest city in Colombia, was opened by Southern Baptist missionary Ellis Leagans in May 1982 and is sponsored by First Baptist Church of Ibague.

"We consider it God's intervention that it has survived," said Leagans, who was on furlough in Livingston, Texas, until he and his family returned to Ibague July 20. They are the only foreign missionaries in the city. During the coming four years, Leagans will be the national director of Theological Education by Extension.

The opportunity to open a bookstore came with a businessman's offer of rent-free space in a downtown four-story building housing 300 merchants.

"Most of the business is concentrated downtown. The streets are just packed," Leagans said, telling how he recognized the strategic potential of the ministry. The only other evangelical bookstore in Ibague is on the outskirts of the city and is difficult to find.

Legans ordered about 100 books on credit. At first, the bookstore was open only in the mornings, but soon it expanded to full business days.

More than 1,500 Bibles were sold during its first two and a half years, along with nearly 8,000 New Testaments and Bible portions. One of First Baptist's members is as the bookstore's fulltime employee and another became its director when Leagans' furlough began. The non-profit venture's current inventory would be worth about \$7,500 in U.S. currency.

Beyond being a place where evangelicals can buy Bibles, books, music and other items, the bookstore is an outreach to non-evangelicals, Leagans noted.

"We make an attempt to give a tract to everybody who comes in," he said. Often, shoppers don't realize it's an evangelical bookstore until they've browsed for a few minutes. "To my knowledge, there's never been any negative reaction (to the tracts). People will usually take a look at whatever is handed to them, if nothing else, out of courtesy."

Roman Catholic priests and nuns have made purchases at the bookstore, and students from at least one class of a parochial school have bought Bibles there.

Another evidence of the bookstore's non-evangelical clientele is the sale of a booklet on helping alcoholics. "It sells like mad. We know that many of the people who are buying it are...people grasping for help," Leagans said. They may not voice their plight to the salesman, but the missionary noted, "The written page—Bibles and literature—penetrate where humans can't. It touches a variety of people who will never come to church services."

The bookstore extends its ministry by taking displays of Bibles and books to evangelistic crusades and other special events throughout the area, Leagans said. It gives First Baptist members an opportunity to work together in an effective outreach, he said.

---30---

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

BAPTIST PRESS

