

APR 19 1985

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**(BP)**

**-- FEATURES**  
produced by Baptist Press

SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Wilmer C. Fields, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

April 18, 1985

85-47

Desert Creeps Into Mali,  
Brings Hunger In Its Wake

By Mary Jane Welch

MOPTI, Mali (BP)—The unknowing visitor could almost slip through Mali's Niger delta without seeing the hunger there.

But Southern Baptist missionaries Norman and Beverly Coad recognize the signs of an ancient culture crippled by an increasingly hostile environment. And they're working to see Mali's hungry people receive 4,000 tons of grain in the critical time just before harvest.

Hunger in Mali isn't seen in the massive refugee camps which collect the suffering in some parts of Africa. Instead, it shows in the faces of families struggling to survive as the desert sand covers the land where their people have grazed livestock and farmed for centuries.

It is seen in the face of Jean Dara, a farmer who watches his crops shrivel as less and less rain falls each year. Dara clutches an armload of millet heads—his entire crop from the last growing season—as he talks with his American visitors. Even if he dies from the hunger and staph infections which weaken him, he will not eat that millet. It is the only hope his family has for a crop this year.

Hunger is seen in the face of a young herdsman who buys shoebox-sized bundles of nutritious peanut hay for three cows which are too weak to graze with the rest of the herd. The men in his family spend their nights driving the herd to Koro for water. The women spend days bringing water from there for the sick cattle. Still, the herdsman has lost half his herd in each of the last three years. He no longer fears death. It would be easier, he says.

Hunger is seen in the face of the Bozo fisherman still in his village in mid-morning. If there were fish in the Niger, he says, you would find no Bozo men in the village. They would be on the river, where he once caught three or four tubs full of fish each day without traveling past the next village. Today, a good catch is two to four small fish. The drought has brought disaster even to those who live on the water's edge.

Throughout the Niger River delta, traditionally Mali's breadbasket, the signs of devastation of an environment pile up. Three men bend in the broiling sun, attacking the hard ground with short hoes. Three years of drought have given farmers every reason to give up. Last year, some farmers sowed four times and reaped nothing. But across the delta, fields are tilled, ready if the rains come.

In Douentza, the people already are collecting the wild fruit they always use to bridge the last few weeks before harvest. But the fruit is far from ripe, barely edible. There will be none left to ripen when hunger is worst.

The Malian government is trying to get grain into the villages before people give up in despair and leave. When grain got to villages on the Burkina Faso border too late, Malian government officials left it there. Within 24 hours, Malians began crossing the border, returning to their homes.

Members of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Koro used to reserve one-tenth of their crops to give to the poor. Today, they have few crops to give. The pastor, one of the "big" area farmers, reaped only three bags of peanuts last year. His family ate one; the other two are just enough to reseed. Half the 6,000 Christians in the area have no seed except millet, he says.

Huge stacks of firewood sit in front of the villages lining Mali's only paved highway. A truck

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

--more--

The villagers have formed a co-op, they explain, to collect the wood. It is the only way they can buy food. Ironically, in trying to survive, they strip the land of the trees that hold off the desert.

David Saye, a Malian teacher, points out an area where he and his friends used to hunt. As late as 1979, it was a forest. Today, there is nothing but sand and thorn trees. Stumps mark the spots where people harvested the dead trees for firewood.

Mali's nomadic tribes of the north move south into more populated areas as their animals die and they sell off other resources. They go as far as their resources will take them and stop—usually on the edge of a town, a foreign environment for them.

A year ago there were no camels in Koro; it was too wet. The desert animals walk well only on sand. Heavy vegetation and wet soil are treacherous to them. This year camels abound.

One group of 13 nomadic families has built its huts in a millet field outside Koro. The owners let the families camp there because their animals' dung will enrich the field. When planting time comes, they will have to move on. Already they have buried seven of their group—a man, a woman and five children—in that millet field.

Another camp of nomads outside Mopti is so ravaged by disease—tuberculosis, measles, cholera, leprosy, syphilis—that American visitors head straight for the showers when they leave. One to three people die every day in that camp, an old man says. No one is allowed to bury the dead in the fertile fields of Mopti. The nomads carry their dead on their heads several miles to the next town for burial.

As the old man spills the tale of suffering he and other nomads face because they lack ties with established communities through which aid is channeled, Norman Coad tells them the Baptist Mission will be distributing grain in the area soon. At least 10 percent of the grain to be distributed through Baptists is earmarked for widows, orphans and migrants, he says.

After the old man leaves, one of the young men lingers to speak. "I hope you find something which will nourish plants," he says. "In a few months, I will no longer be a human being. I will be a plant."

Coad has no answer for him. Knowing he can't help everyone is one of the toughest things about helping at all. But he's determined not to be overwhelmed by the problem. He can't help everyone, but he can help some. And because Southern Baptists and other evangelical groups distributed the grain in a fair way which allowed people to maintain their dignity, the evangelical church in Mali is seeing a rising tide of interest in Christianity.

In Douentza, three men have come to the home of David Saye's father-in-law to greet Coad because of what he has done. These four represent the only Christian families in the area.

Before last year, Saye's father-in-law and his family were the only Christians in town. When they left their courtyard, they were insulted. But because of last year's grain distribution, they're no longer insulted and a few of their neighbors have become Christians.

The next day, Saye takes Coad away just as he's about to sit down to eat. Two men want to talk with him. What they've seen of Christianity has convinced them of its value. They want to talk about becoming Christians.

—30—

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

Reagan Assails Communist  
Denials Of Religious Freedom

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press  
4/18/85

WASHINGTON (BP)—President Reagan, in one of his strongest statements on the subject to date, lashed out at communist denials of religious liberty around the world, saving his harshest criticism for the Soviet Union and the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

—more—

Speaking to a conference on religious liberty in foreign countries, Reagan assailed the views of Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin and Josef Stalin, declaring, "Atheism is not an incidental element of communism, not just part of the package. It is the package."

Co-sponsored by the Department of State, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the National Association of Evangelicals, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Jacques Maritain Center of Notre Dame University, the conference featured scholarly presentations on the state of religious liberty around the world. Special attention was given to religious freedom in communist and Third World countries.

Before launching into his attacks on the Soviet Union and Nicaragua, Reagan offered a commentary on the New Testament's best-known passage on church-state relations, Jesus' teaching to "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," as recorded in the gospel of Matthew. "What this injunction teaches us is that the individual cannot be entirely subordinate to the state, that there exists a whole other realm, an almost mysterious realm of individual thought and action which is sacred and which is totally beyond and outside of state control," the president declared.

Noting religious freedom "has been central to the development of human rights," Reagan added: "Only in an intellectual climate which distinguishes between the City of God and the City of Man and which explicitly affirms the independence of God's realm and forbids any infringement by the state on its prerogatives, only in such a climate could the idea of individual human rights take root, grow and eventually flourish."

In communist regimes, especially the Soviet Union, "it is often the Church which forms the most powerful barrier against a completely totalitarian system," he said. "So, totalitarian regimes always seek either to destroy the Church, or, when that is impossible, to subvert it."

The president paid tribute to religious dissidents inside Russia, including Christians, Jews and Muslims "who continue to practice their faith." He noted the recent congressional delegation led by House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill gave new Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders a list of "prisoners of conscience."

But the longest section of his speech was reserved for a renewed attack on alleged denials of religious freedom by the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. That government, he said, "is faced with a politically active Church that, although it supported the revolution, is now considered a major obstacle to complete totalitarian control."

Striking at what he called "widespread campaigns to indoctrinate children and adults," Reagan lauded the Catholic Church in Nicaragua for "fighting to maintain autonomy and keep this indoctrination out of their churches and schools." He said further he recently received "a verbal message" from Pope John Paul II "urging us to continue our efforts in Central America."

He accused the Sandinistas of harassing Jews as well as Catholics and evangelicals, telling of the fire-bombing of a synagogue. "The Sandinistas wrote on the synagogue the words, 'What Hitler started we will finish,'" Reagan said.

He concluded the 15-minute address by calling attention to the "storm of controversy" over his recently announced intention to visit a war cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany, during his European trip next month. Reagan reiterated his desire and that of West German chancellor Helmut Kohl to commemorate "the liberation of Europe, the rebirth of German freedom and the reconciliation of our two countries."

Saying the decision not to visit the infamous Jewish concentration camp at Dachau was made "because of my mistaken impression that such a visit was outside the official agenda," the president said he now has accepted a new invitation by Kohl to visit such a site. The announcement brought applause from conference participants.

As though to underscore his antipathy toward anti-Semitism, Reagan declared: "For years I've said it, and I'll say it again today, and I will say it again on that occasion, we must never forget the Holocaust, nor should we ever permit such an atrocity to happen ever again. Never again."

New East Asia Director,  
Prayer Leader Selected

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Samuel M. James, a former missionary to Vietnam, was approved as director-elect for East Asia by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during its April 15-17 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

A new special assistant to the president for intercessory prayer and three field associates for areas of Africa and South America also were announced.

James, a Liberty, N.C., native, will succeed George Hays, who retires Dec. 31. Hays has led the board's work in East Asia since September 1975. He was a professor in Seinan Gakuin University's theology department, Fukuoka, Japan, from 1948 to 1972 and field representative for East Asia from 1973 to 1975. James, who will become director-elect June 1, has been the missionary learning department's director since 1980, overseeing the training of missionaries and volunteers. He also was instrumental in developing the new Missionary Learning Center near the board's home office in Richmond, Va.

He was a missionary to Vietnam from 1962 to 1975, and his last eight years there were as president of the Vietnam Baptist Theological Seminary in Saigon. James lived in Taiwan from 1976 to 1980 while he was field representative for East Asia.

Minette Drumwright, assistant to the executive vice-president since 1982, was named to succeed Catherine Walker, who is retiring as special assistant to the president for intercessory prayer. Walker was a missionary to China in 1947 and 1948 and then an instructor at the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary from 1954 to 1980.

Drumwright, a native of San Antonio, Texas, is the widow of Huber L. Drumwright Jr., who died in 1981. Her husband had been dean of the school of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and was executive secretary-treasurer of Arkansas Baptists when he died.

The board also approved the addition of a third field associate to the area director for Eastern and Southern Africa. Bill E. Phillips, a church development missionary in Zambia since 1978, will relate to work in the central African countries of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Angola and the Indian Ocean islands of Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius. Phillips, a native of Stamford, Texas, will begin his new duties May 1 and will live in Harare, Zimbabwe.

James N. Westmoreland, a general evangelist in South Africa, will replace Marion G. "Bud" Fray Jr. as associate for southern Africa. Fray has been named chairman of the division of religion and philosophy at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and director of the Center of Christian Ministry there.

Westmoreland will relate to mission work in South Africa, Bophuthatswana, Botswana, South West Africa, Swaziland and Transkei. A native of Culleoka, Tenn., he will begin his work June 1 and will be stationed in Johannesburg. He was in Zimbabwe (then known as Rhodesia) from 1960 to 1978 and in South Africa since 1979.

The third associate to the area director, James Hampton, in Nairobi, Kenya, now will focus on the eastern Africa countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda.

Davis Saunders, director for Eastern and Southern Africa, said the changes were necessary to handle the increased number of missions and missionaries, volunteers, relief projects and partnership missions in the various countries.

George S. Lozuk, coordinator of the Ecuador mission, was approved as the new associate to the area director for Western South America. He succeeds Bob Tucker, now associate director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas.

Lozuk, who assumed the new duties April 17, is a native of Athens, Texas. He was a missionary to Venezuela from 1957 to 1982, working much of the time in Baptist radio and television programming. He went to Ecuador in 1982.

Equal Access Act Merits  
Debated By Attorneys

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—Two leading players in the ongoing debate over the constitutionality of the "Equal Access Act of 1984" tackled the issue at the annual meeting of the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL).

Maryland Attorney General Stephen H. Sachs, who has advised his state's school administrators the legislation is unconstitutional, told the PEARL meeting the "root failing" of the act is "it does not understand the great commands of the Establishment Clause."

On the other side, Christian Legal Society attorney Sam Ericsson, currently representing a group of Williamsport, Pa., students in their equal access case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, insisted the 1984 act does not overstep First Amendment bounds.

The Equal Access Act is designed to give voluntary student religious groups in secondary schools the same access to before-and-after-school meeting sites as other student-initiated, non-curriculum groups enjoy. Members of PEARL—a broad coalition of religious, education and civil liberties groups who normally stand together as separationists on church-state questions—were divided over this proposal.

The key differences between Sachs' and Ericsson's views centered on what constitutes school sponsorship of religious activities. Sachs maintained the Equal Access Act fails to keep the school apart from the activities.

Ericsson, who directs CLS Center for Law and Religious Freedom, insisted the level of involvement by school officials in permitting religious groups to participate in the "limited open forum" periods available to other voluntary, non-curriculum related groups, was incidental and constitutionally permissible. With the Equal Access Act, Ericsson said, "we are not asking for time to be set aside. Time is already set aside."

The "overwhelming purpose" of the Equal Access Act, Sachs countered, is to do for religious activities what has already been done for secular activities. "Making it equal is an enhancement of it," Sachs said, insisting such enhancement violates the Establishment Clause.

Ericsson repeatedly underscored his organization's support of the landmark 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions banning state-sponsored religious exercises in public schools, insisting that equal access supporters did not seek state-sponsored religious meetings. "If you want to kill religion, make it official," Ericsson said.

Ericsson called the 1984 act an "interim measure" until the Supreme Court could deal with the equal access principle in a case such as the one filed by the Williamsport students. Sachs predicted more litigation stemming from the 1984 act, calling it a "full employment act" for lawyers in the church-state field.

In another session of the PEARL meeting, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, called "dangerous" and "insidious" proposals in Congress to strip the U.S. Supreme Court and lower federal courts of jurisdiction in cases involving school prayer, abortion and busing.

"I can't think of any more dangerous, more insidious effort to destroy the nation," Metzenbaum said referring to the court-stripping measures. "If there is court-stripping legislation brought to the floor of the United States Senate I will mount the best filibuster you have ever seen, and it will make my previous ones look like a Sunday picnic."

The Ohio lawmaker also predicted defeat for school prayer and tuition tax credit measures if they reach the Senate floor this year.

Metzenbaum said backers of a constitutional amendment on school prayer will be back even after a sizable defeat last year but said, "I think we have a better chance of defeating it. We can defeat it, but it is not easy."

On aid to private and parochial schools, Metzenbaum said, "It's a tough battle to defeat the tuition tax credit issue, but I think we can prevail."

Missions Researcher To Give  
Added Help in Strategy Plans

NASHVILLE (BP)—To plan mission strategy with the best research possible, Southern Baptists are tapping the services of David Barrett, a top expert in country-by-country Christian strength.

"Dr. Barrett is without question the foremost mission research specialist on the current world scene," said R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, in announcing expanded work that Barrett has agreed to undertake for the denomination.

Barrett, who has been directing a Foreign Mission Board study of the world's cities since 1983, is a missionary and research officer based in Nairobi, Kenya, for the Anglican Communion. He edited the 1982 "World Christian Encyclopedia," a 1,101-page survey of world Christianity. Barrett visited 212 nations during the 14-year project.

The FMB urban study, focusing on 2,200 cities with 100,000 or more people, is scheduled to be completed in July 1986.

The range of missions research Barrett will be involved in during a three-year contract beginning April 29 will be used in "administrative and policy decisions which will enhance reaching the world for Jesus Christ," Parks said.

Barrett, who will move to Richmond, Va., for the three-year project, has been concerned the massive amount of research he has accumulated be used to evangelize the world rather than become information of scholarly interest, Parks noted. "He has given himself to mission research beyond anyone else I know."

A missionary since 1956, Barrett has lived and worked in Kenya; Harlem, N.Y.; Guatemala City; and several cities in England. He was a Fulbright Scholar from 1962 to 1965.

In addition to work for Anglicans and Southern Baptists, he has done research for the United Bible Societies, the Institute of Church Growth in Pasadena, Calif., and the United Nations Data Bank.

Barrett's research has led to more than 80 manuscripts and reports and, in turn, about 300 reviews by scholars and writers in various publications. He has written for such reference works as the Oxford Encyclopedia of Africa and the Concise Dictionary of Christian Missions and such periodicals as the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Missiology and the International Bulletin of Missionary Research. About 500 articles in international or national newspapers or journals have featured Barrett's work.

—30—

Missionary Appointment Service  
Draws 10,000 Tennesseans

By Charlie Warren

Baptist Press  
4/18/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—About 10,000 people filled Nashville's Munciple Auditorium April 16 to witness the appointment of 37 people as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work in 16 nations overseas.

Encompassed with inspirational music by a 1,300-voice choir of members of 115 Southern Baptist churches and a dramatic parade of flags from the 105 nations where Southern Baptists now have missionaries, the 37 missionaries testified to God's call to missions.

"God has not called us to sacrifice but to joyous obedience," said Joe Dillon of Alabama, who will go to Venezuela.

"God wrapped his arms of love around me and that night, I gave him all my fears, my failures, and I just laid them at his feet," echoed Patricia Glenn of Tennessee, a new missionary to the Windward Islands.

—more—

Some told of experiencing God's call as children, others as teenagers, others as adults. They credited the influences of family, friends, church s, missions organizations, colleges, seminaries, Baptist Student Unions, pastors and furloughing missionaries for their roles in discovering God's will.

They came from varied backgrounds and go to diverse assignments. Some were summer missionaries, some were denominational workers, one couple was in home missions and one had been a missionary journeyman. Several were pastors. They go as a doctor, a dentist, a maintenance man, a marriage and family life counselor, a WMU worker, an artist, a seminary teacher, a guest house hostess and a literature worker. Many will be preachers.

The service, the major FMB appointment service of 1985, occurred the day after the death of Baker James Cauthen, who had been executive director of the board for 26 years before his retirement in 1979.

Keith Parks, president of the board and Cauthen's successor, called the packed auditorium to a moment of remembrance.

"As we come to a missions service," Parks said, "as they are celebrating in glory with this great leader of missions who has touched more lives for missions than any other man in our generation, it would be only appropriate if we stood together in a moment of tribute."

The service also came on the 50th anniversary year of the appointment of Tennessean Bill Wallace, who was martyred as a missionary doctor to China in 1951. Significantly, one of the new missionaries, Dan Jones of Mississippi, will be a doctor at Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital, Pusan, Korea, named in Wallace's memory.

The 37 new missionaries bring the number appointed so far this year to 127. There are now about 3,500 Southern Baptist missionaries overseas.

Several of the new missionaries spoke of God's timing and of the importance of total surrender to his will.

"We didn't really understand his timing," admitted Dan Jones. "We didn't understand why he didn't call us earlier, after I had finished my training, before I had put roots down. It might have been easier to leave during those earlier, more frustrating years of practice."

"Why did he wait until we were happy and settled, satisfied in our professional life, our home life, church life, community life? As we reflected, we understand that God chose now because that's when he had us ready. He didn't have us ready before."

Robert Shain of Texas related his "success" story. He was a manager in a major corporation and was comfortable financially.

"Yet I didn't have the satisfaction," Shain explained. "I didn't have that inner peace I knew should be there. I realized being in the will of God was not asking him to approve of my will. Walking with God, being truly his subject, was to give your will completely over to his will. And that's what I did."

Carolyn Wakefield of Missouri, appointed for Korea, said for her, it was a matter of trust. "The issue was did I really believe God wanted the best for me," she said, answering, "No one loves me like God does. No one loves my husband and children like God does. Whatever lies ahead for us is what is best for us."

Parks challenged the new missionaries and the crowd with a call to remember the world.

"Has God forgotten the people of the world?" Parks asked. "I don't believe that God, who gave the most precious, priceless gift of all eternity, could forget any of the people for whom Christ died."

"Where is the God of Bill Wallace and Baker James Cauthen? Has he forgotten the people of China?" Parks asked.

"God has remembered with anguish the multiplied millions dying in increasing numbers every moment, every tick of the clock. Why are they not reached? It is not because God has forgotten them but because God has chosen that he will only move through those who voluntarily and joyously obey—who say, 'Yes, I will go.'"

Parks suggested that while God has not forgotten the nations of the world, sometimes we have forgotten them. "Tonight is a night of remembering," Parks challenged. "Tonight is a night of renewed commitment to be a priest to take the gospel into the world."

During the time of invitation at the conclusion of the service, 90 people made decisions. Fifty-six, 41 of them adults, made decisions to follow God's will to career missions. Of the remainder, 22 were rededicating their lives, six expressed willingness to be in volunteer missions, one came for salvation and five made other types of spiritual decisions.

—30—

(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Charlie Warren is associate editor of the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Former Oklahoma  
Editor Dis At 68

Baptist Press  
4/18/85

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Jack L. Gritz, 68, former editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, died at his son's home in Fort Worth, Texas, April 14.

Gritz was editor of the newspaper for 30 years, starting in 1949. He graduated from Enid High School, Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He earned a Ph.D from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He was ordained by First Baptist Church of Enid and was an associate in the department of religious education before becoming pastor of First Baptist Church Tahlequah in 1947.

Gritz is survived by his wife, Chloe, whom he married in 1947, and son Paul, a professor at Southwestern seminary.

—30—

Missions Experience  
Focus SBC Priorities

Baptist Press  
4/18/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists who participate in short-term volunteer foreign missions projects return to the United States convinced that missions and evangelism—not controversy—should be the priorities of the denomination.

Wayne Dehoney, who recently coordinated a team of 540 volunteers who conducted a massive evangelistic effort in Brazil, said volunteers see the powerful impact of the denomination's missions enterprise, gain a deeper awareness of the needs of a lost world and ultimately become stronger supporters of the Cooperative Program.

Dehoney, a former president of the SBC who recently retired as pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., preached at the annual Spiritual Emphasis Days at the Baptist Sunday School Board. He spoke on the theme, "Joy in the Morning," during the three-day emphasis, urging employees to live one day at a time in gratitude to God for the gift of life.

"God can take even the bad things that are happening in our convention and in our lives and fit them together and make them work for good," said Dehoney.

In an interview he reflected on the benefits of first-hand experiences in missions.

"As missions programs come alive for the volunteers, it enhances the appeal of the Cooperative Program because people see how their money is being used," said Dehoney.

—more—



"One of the real problems we face in the massiveness of our denomination is that it's easy for the Cooperative Program to become an intangible dollar figure. Short-term volunteers see missions dramatized and personalized. They see a lot of needs that must be met," he added.

Dehoney called missions and evangelism "the priorities that brought us together in the first place." He said it is tragic that as Southern Baptists are about to launch the Good News America campaign, "we're holding up to the world our mistrust of each other and lack of love and respect for each other's integrity. This is nothing in the world but the devil at work."

Dehoney predicted that 80 percent of the denomination's laypersons "are tired of this controversy, if they even know about it. It is hurting us, diverting us from the simple task of proclaiming the gospel to the lost world. We've got to get back to that."

Dehoney said Bold Mission Thrust represents an opportunity and a challenge to return to the priorities of missions and evangelism.

Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board, said he invited Dehoney to lead Spiritual Emphasis Days because of his pastoral preaching experience, emphasis on missions and his service as a former president of the SBC, 1964-66.

"His messages provided outstanding and biblical application to the daily lives of those of us here at the board," said Elder.

—30—

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

Missouri Baptist Executive Board  
Affirms Unity, Cooperative Program By Trennis Henderson

Baptist Press  
4/18/85

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—Calling for "healing among Southern Baptists" and for "God's will, not man's, to be accomplished in our denomination," members of the Missouri Baptist Convention executive board unanimously resolved last week to commit themselves to "earnest prayer" for those two concerns.

The resolution, introduced by the board's communications committee, also called for faith in the Holy Bible speaking for itself; reemphasis on the Cooperative Program and Bold Mission Thrust; Christian statesmanship within SBC controversy, and cooperation among messengers to the 1985 SBC annual meeting in Dallas.

Board member Max Glover, who presented the resolution to the full board, told Word and Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, the resolution was written in response to "bitter attitudes" within the SBC.

Referring specifically to former SBC president James T. Draper Jr.'s recent comments about the Cooperative Program, Glover declared, "I thought he went too far when he said he would withhold Cooperative Program gifts" if Charles Stanley is not reelected SBC president.

Glover, a member of First Baptist Church, Webb City, said his goal for the resolution is that "it would stir people to be sure we're within God's will in everything we undertake."

Sounding a similar theme about SBC tensions during his remarks to the board, MBC Executive Director Rheubin South noted, "I think a little less rhetoric and a little more spirit of the Lord on both sides would help us all come out better. The big problem with the SBC is we've taken the Cooperative Program for granted," South added. "It's a must. It's the way God has blessed the SBC to do missions, evangelism and education."

—30—

Chinese Doctors Visit  
Wake Forest, Sign Pact

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)—Seven doctors from China's Zhongshan Medical College visited the medical school at Wake Forest University in North Carolina in April, again signing a formal agreement of affiliation originally signed last November in China.

The agreement will expand cooperation between the Chinese institution and Wake Forest's Bowman Gray School of Medicine in areas such as cancer research, arthroscopic surgery and comparative medicine. It also provides for ongoing faculty, student and hospital staff exchanges. Bowman Gray joins the medical schools of Harvard and Johns Hopkins Universities as the only American institutions formally affiliated with Chinese medical schools, according to Bowman Gray officials.

Peng Wen Wei, president of Zhongshan, called the agreement "epoch making...a milestone in further collaboration between the two schools." Richard Janeway, Bowman Gray dean, said, "We believe we've taken a major step toward progress between our countries and our peoples."

The Chinese doctors' long-awaited visit to the Wake Forest campus followed three trips to China by Bowman Gray doctors, led by Southern Baptist surgeon Tim Pennell. Pennell is head of Bowman Gray's office of international health affairs and longtime supporter of Southern Baptist medical work overseas.

The Bowman Gray teams lectured to students and interacted with colleagues on the Zhongshan campus in Guangzhou (Canton) in southeastern China. A school set aside for training outstanding students from all over China, Zhongshan operates five teaching hospitals and three research institutes. Some 3,000 students are enrolled in the school's many teaching programs.

The cooperation agreement heralds an increasing number of opportunities in China for Southern Baptist-related institutions like Wake Forest. The Chinese government continues to call for overseas contributions to China's modernization drive in science, education, technology, industry and many other fields.

—30—

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

Tennessee Baptist Paper  
Names Davis To Staff

Baptist Press  
4/18/85

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)—Connie Davis of Memphis, Tenn., has been named assistant editor of the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. She will assume the position May 7.

For nine years she has worked in editorial positions with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. She has been managing editor of "Crusader" and "Crusader Counselor" magazines since 1980. The Oklahoma native is a graduate of El Reno (Okla.) Junior College and the University of Oklahoma. She also has done graduate study work at Memphis State University.

She will fill a vacancy created when Steve Higdon became promotion and copy specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board's office of church programs and services.

—30—

EDITOR'S NOTE—The (BP) story "Executive Committee, Boards Nominated," mailed 4/16/85, a name of a renominated trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board (Harold L. Jennings of Kirbywood Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.) was left out since it was omitted from the official report due to a clerical error.

Please insert his name in the 29th paragraph of th story.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press

**(BP)**

**BAPTIST PRESS**

901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
901 COMMERCE  
NASHVILLE, TN. 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION