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85-60

Missionary Letters Foster Churches' Prayer Support

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—New bonds of prayer are being established between Southern Baptists' 36,000 churches and their foreign missionaries.

To undergird Southern Baptist work abroad, the Foreign Mission Board has mailed each missionary a list of 10 churches to write, requesting ongoing prayer support. New missionaries will receive the names of churches not yet assigned.

Prayer for missions "is fundamental, not supplemental," says Catherine Walker, special assistant to the FMB president for intercessory prayer since 1981.

Walker retires May 15 and will be succeeded by Minette Drumwright, who has been assistant to the executive vice-president since 1982. The lists were mailed in January and good reports about the effort already are coming in.

After receiving a letter from a missionary in Japan, for example, a pastor in Orlando, Fla., wrote to the Foreign Mission Board expressing appreciation for efforts "to make the relationships between our missionaries and ourselves more personal."

A pastor in Staunton, Va., wrote, "We will be most happy to pray specifically...in our worship service and other meetings" for the missionary in Burkina Faso in west Africa who had written to the church.

A missionary in Argentina has received three positive replies. "Each...has expressed a genuine desire to pray for us and our work here," she wrote Walker. "All have requested pictures of our family plus biographical data.

"One church wants to include a page of pictures of us and examples of our ministry in the 90th anniversary edition of their church directory. One of the churches is very small and has never been related to a missionary in any way."

The missionary hopes churches will "get to know a missionary as a 'real' human being" and their heightened prayer support will bolster Southern Baptist Bold Mission Thrust efforts to share the gospel globally by the year 2000.

One small hitch to the letter-writing program involves the mail, Walker says. "We're never sure all our letters get overseas and we're certainly not sure that all the missionaries send from overseas gets here."

The missionaries' letters involve only prayer support, since Southern Baptist churches already provide financial support through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions.

"We need to pray because Jesus told us to," Walker says. "We don't have any way of knowing how many people have to pray or how long they have to pray to affect a situation—just that they must pray."

In addition to missionaries' letters, the Foreign Mission Board continues to seek prayer involvement through monthly mailings of prayer requests from overseas. At present, 13,000 churches or individuals receive the lists.

Church Ups Gifts
'Regardless' Of President

By Jerilynn Armstrong

HOUSTON (BP)—In response to "those in the denomination who would withhold their financial contributions for obviously political reasons," Willow Meadows Baptist Church in Houston voted April 24 to immediately increase the church's gifts through the Cooperative Program from 10 percent to 13 percent.

Acting on a resolution of "concern and recommitment" presented by George Gaston, pastor, the congregation overwhelmingly approved an immediate increase in funding of the Cooperative Program and a systematic increase to 20 percent during the next three years.

The resolution also said: "Our gifts to the cause of cooperative missions will be given regardless of who is elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in the coming years; and, ...we call upon all Southern Baptists to join us in recommitting ourselves to a lifestyle devoid of threats and manipulative political activity, and a renewed investment of our lives and resources to the cause of Christ through the Southern Baptist Convention."

Gaston said the response from his church as they have considered the resolution was one of renewal and enthusiasm. "My church sees their action as a positive statement to other Southern Baptists and an invitation to join us in this effort," he said.

Gaston added adjustments had been made in the church's current budget of \$1.14 million, and, beginning in May, Willow Meadows will send 13 percent to the Cooperative Program.

"The increase in Cooperative Program gifts will be a sacrifice for my church, but I already have had several individuals come up to me and say they are going to increase their tithe to the church. One man said he was increasing his by 50 percent.

"It is this attitude of pulling together for a greater cause that has been the response of the congregation and made this such a positive, refreshing experience," Gaston said.

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Board Elects Two Staff,
Approves 72 For Missions

By Michael Tutterow

Baptist Press
5/9/85

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors elected two new staff members for the Atlanta-based agency during their May meeting, and confirmed the election of another new staff member earlier approved by mail poll.

The HMB executive committee elected Ronald W. Loftis of Fayetteville, N.C., as assistant director of church and community ministries; David Morgan of Des Moines, Iowa, as assistant director of the HMB church loans division, and William F. Reed of Atlanta as assistant director of the board's loan servicing department.

Loftis, director of Christian social ministries for New South River Baptist Association in Fayetteville, N.C., was named to the newly-created position in the church and community ministries department, effective May 15.

Loftis, who has worked with the New South River Association since 1977, will assist churches, associations and state conventions in developing strategies for church and community ministry. He will develop brochures and training materials for the department, as well as prepare articles, pamphlets, tracts, media and other materials for church and community ministry, and be a liaison between seminaries and the department in placing student interns.

He is a graduate of Pembroke State University and holds two degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. Before he became CSM director in Fayetteville, Loftis was pastor of two North Carolina churches. He also had worked with the North Carolina Department of Transportation in Fayetteville before becoming a pastor.

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Morgan, named assistant director in the church loans division effective May 15, succeeds Joe Carl Johnson, who retired last year. Morgan will be based in Des Moines where he now lives and will work primarily with churches in the western United States.

Morgan's primary responsibility will be to appraise church programs and physical facilities and evaluate requests of churches seeking loan/bond assistance from the board, according to Bob Kilgore, director of the church loans division.

The Vergennes, Ill., native has been a consultant with the board's associational administration department since 1984. Prior to that, he was director of mission for the Iowa Baptist Fellowship and language program leader for the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Morgan also has been director of missions in Arizona and Missouri, and was pastor of churches in Missouri, Kansas and Arizona. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University and attended Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Directors also affirmed a mail poll vote taken to elect Reed assistant director of the board's loan servicing department. The vote, taken during April when the executive committee does not meet, named Reed to the post effective April 22.

Reed, who succeeds Tom Haynes who also retired last year, will assist in working with churches, title companies and attorneys to insure legal requirements have been met to allow the disbursement of loan funds.

Reed, a native of Greenwood, Miss., is a graduate of Mississippi State University and the Atlanta Law School. He was formerly executive vice-president and director of real estate syndication for the Southern Real Estate Equities, Inc., in Atlanta. He previously worked as vice-president for Massey and Fair, Inc., an Atlanta company.

In other actions, the board appointed four missionaries, six missionary associates, and two church planter apprentices and upgraded one person from missionary associate to missionary status. Sixty persons were approved to receive church, language and field pastoral assistance.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS

June 9-10, 1985

Central Expressway Inn, Dallas

Theme: The Director of Missions—Who? How?

June 9, 1985

Sunday Afternoon, Session I

1:00—Registration

1:30—Welcome—Bob Lee Franklin, director of missions, Noonday Baptist Association, Marietta, Ga.

—Program overview

—Special music—Harold Slack, minister of music, Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church, Dallas

—Devotional—J. Billy Graham, director of missions, Carthage, N.C.

2:00—Who Is A Director of Missions and What Does He Do?—J. Woodrow Fuller, retired director of missions, Texas and Florida

—...His Wife?—Mrs. J. Woodrow (June) Fuller

3:00—Break

3:20—Music

3:25—Business session—Bob Lee Franklin

4:00—How Does A Director of Missions Maintain Excellence in Programs?—Morton Rose, vice-president, office of church program services, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

4:45—How Does A Director of Missions Dream?—William Pinson, executive director, Baptist General Convention of Texas

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Sunday Evening, Session II

6:00--Dinner

6:45--Invocation

--Introductions and announcements

6:55--Special Music

7:05--The Annuity Board and the Director of Missions--Gene Daniel, senior vice-president for marketing, Annuity Board, Dallas

--Benediction

June 10, 1985

Monday Morning, Session III

8:00--Registration

8:25--Music--Harold Slack

--Devotion--Charles B. Aiken, area director of missions for central Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colo.

8:35--What Does the Future Hold?--Doram C. McCarty, professor of ministry, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

9:35--Break

10:00--Music

10:10--How Does A Director of Missions Plan For and Enjoy Retirement?--W.E. Thorne, retired president, Dallas Baptist College, Dallas

11:00--Texas barbecue

Directors of Missions

To Meet June 9-10

Baptist Press

5/9/85

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions will meet June 9-10 at the Central Expressway Inn, Dallas, immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The three-session program, under the theme, "The Director of Missions--Who? How?," will look at basic information for the job.

During the opening session Sunday afternoon: J. Woodrow Fuller, retired director of missions in Texas and Florida, will discuss "Who is a Director of Missions and What Does He Do?," while his wife, June Fuller, will talk about the role of a wife of a director of missions; Morton Rose, vice-president at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn. will discuss, "How Does a Director of Missions Maintain Excellence in Programs?," and William Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will speak on "How Does a Director of Missions Dream?"

Sunday evening Gene Daniel, senior vice-president for marketing at the Annuity Board, will explore the relationship between the Annuity Board and the director of missions.

During the closing session Monday morning, Doram C. McCarty, professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., will speak on "What Does the Future Hold?," and W.E. Thorne, retired president of Dallas Baptist University, will discuss, "How Does a Director of Missions Plan for and Enjoy Retirement?"

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Lack Of Love Affects
Future Of The Church

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press
5/9/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Churches are losing children to the world because adults are not communicating effectively with them, leaders of children and preschoolers attending a national church training seminar at the Baptist Sunday School Board were told in Nashville.

"Most adults don't know how to love children," said Ross Campbell, director of the Southeastern Counseling Center, Chattanooga, Tenn. "Today it is rare to find a child with a healthy self-concept and view of love."

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Stressing the importance of showing unconditional love through actions, Campbell said, "Children learn about the love of Christ from adults who model this love relationship. No one can take the place of a parent, but another adult, preferably in the church, can show children an attitude of love and care."

Campbell believes adults have learned to love abstractly, that is to feel good when someone verbally expresses love, but "children have not fully developed their capacity to relate in abstract terms. Adults need to learn to love them behaviorally. Behavior is simple: language is complex," he said.

Campbell noted adults not only need to express emotion to a child but children should also be able to express their emotions to adults. "It is amazing how much Sunday school teachers can help keep the child's emotional tank filled," he said.

Too often adults respond to the emotional needs of children with punishment, Campbell said. "We never get to the root of a child's problem—is he ill, tired, hungry, needing attention or affirmation? Sometimes a behavioral problem can be solved by giving the child five minutes of yourself," he said.

The epidemic of teenage suicides plaguing the United States can be attributed in part to anger children have suppressed because adults did not communicate effectively with them, he said. "Don't resort to punishment as the ultimate answer. Learn to communicate with your children. Teach them the right way to express feelings like love and anger."

In another session, conferees heard Andrew Lester, professor of psychology of religion, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., warn of the need to minister to children during family and personal crises.

"We have sinned against our children by not ministering to them in crisis situations," said Lester who noted pastoral care of children is virtually non-existent.

Lester believes adults "idealize" childhood and assume children have no real fears, worries or cares. "But children face the same stressors and emotional pains that adults do. Children just express them differently," he explained.

Lester told ministers and leaders their most important role is "the ministry of friendship. You represent God and his son. Children learn about this relationship from you. Remember, children are disciples in the making. They need adults to give back to them the love, care and acceptance they give freely to adults."

The national seminar was sponsored by the preschool/children's section of the Sunday School Board's church training department.

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Major Cable TV Company
Signs ACTS Agreement

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5/9/85

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—One of the largest cable TV corporations in the world has signed an agreement to carry the ACTS network on some of its local systems in the United States.

Rogers CableSystems, based in Toronto, owns cable TV systems primarily in Canada and the United States and serves more than two million homes. The agreement with ACTS permits any Rogers system in the U.S. to carry the Southern Baptist-sponsored network.

Initially, the contract will place ACTS on cable TV systems in Yuma, Ariz., and El Centro, Calif. But Lloyd Hart, national cable affiliate manager for ACTS, said others will likely be added in the near future.

ACTS has signed on more than 175 local cable TV systems to carry its family and Christian entertainment programs, which are delivered by satellite 24 hours a day. Operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, the network can be seen in almost three million homes nationwide.

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