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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
 Marv Knox, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

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

July 30, 1986

86-109

Teamwork Developing Between
 Brazilian, U.S. Missionaries

By Leland Webb

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Two-nation missionary teams may become a trend in foreign missions. Already Brazilian Baptist and Southern Baptist missionaries are working as teams in Venezuela and Colombia.

At Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, Calixto and Suely Patricio from Brazil and Mike and Becki Glenn from the United States are in the second year of their joint project to build a strong church that could become a model for the country. The Patricios are missionaries of the Brazilian Baptist Convention's Board of World Missions; the Glens are missionaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

At Jesus Christ Is the Way Baptist Church, "Calixto is the pastor, and I am the co-pastor," says Mike Glenn. "Ours is an interesting relationship--two foreign missionary couples from distinct countries working together in a third country, developing a large-scale work."

In a similar partnership in Bogota, Colombia, Southern Baptist missionaries Howard and Libby Atkinson were invited by Brazilian Baptist missionaries Idelfonso and Miriam dos Santos to work together in developing the Baptist Mission of Montes City.

Similarities between the cooperative teams in Puerto La Cruz and Bogota are many:

--In both cases the church or mission involved emphasizes evangelistic witness through Bible study cells in homes. Both congregations stress missions and give more than average to national mission causes.

--Much of each congregation's membership consists of relatively new believers.

--The Patricio family in Venezuela and the dos Santos family in Colombia are the only Brazilian Baptist missionaries in those countries.

--In both congregations, training lay workers for outreach receives heavy emphasis.

--In each city, the resulting church could become a model for Baptists in the rest of the country.

--Both team efforts began at about the same time. In each case the Brazilian half of the team invited the Southern Baptists to work jointly, and in both instances the men work as equal partners on the team. Both men complement each other in their personalities and gifts for ministry. In both locations, there is a high level of trust among the missionaries involved.

"People in the mission see us both as co-pastors," says dos Santos in Bogota. Adds Atkinson, "We share responsibilities in everything." That includes preaching, dos Santos confirms, "We share it equally."

"You need to work together as a team," says Atkinson. "Our mission here is growing so much faster than any of the others that Baptists have because we complement each other, and Idelfonso gives more time to it." Dos Santos also plays the guitar and sings, adding musical support.

Atkinson remains heavily involved in Baptist outreach and in programs of the Colombian Baptist Convention. He helped create "Plan Bogota," a strategy for Christian witness to the city of over 4 million. The convention has recruited him as coordinator for its Board of Evangelism and for its Board of Missions. In his role with the Colombian mission board, he encourages churches to start new congregations and to give to the convention's missions offering.

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In Venezuela the Patricios in their first term began Memorial Baptist Church in Barcelona, a city adjacent to Puerto la Cruz. After Memorial called a Venezuelan pastor, the Brazilian missionaries moved to Puerto La Cruz in 1984 with a small nucleus to begin another church.

In 1985 the Glenns, at Calixto Patricio's invitation, moved to Puerto La Cruz to work with the Brazilians to strengthen the new Jesus Christ Is the Way Baptist Church. Featuring Bible study "cell" groups meeting in members' homes and reaching out to the neighborhoods, the church has grown to 120 members and regular attendance of 250 to 300. The church has a goal to have 18 such cell groups by year's end.

"This is relational evangelism," says Glenn. "We use the homes of church members as focal points to reach their family, friends and neighbors for Christ."

Meeting in a former warehouse, the church has chosen to give 16 percent of its offerings to support mission efforts of the Venezuelan Baptist Convention and to assist several missionaries rather than to begin a building fund. Says Patricio, "We are putting our offering investments in heaven. And in the moment that we're going to need a temple (church building), God's going to open up the doors of heaven."

He adds, "If the Lord were to come today, I'd rather have 20 missionaries in the church than a large church building."

The two men, both 35, are highly compatible—Patricio enjoys working with large groups; Glenn prefers one-on-one contact. Patricio is spontaneous, Glenn more analytical. "We have never had major disagreements," says Patricio of Glenn. "I'm the type to jump in, and Mike is more the type to analyze."

In addition to his duties as missionary, Patricio this year became regional representative for the five countries in western South America where the Brazilian board stations missionaries. Glenn, besides serving as co-pastor, remains an area missionary, assisting other churches, coordinating Theological Education by Extension for eastern Venezuela and aiding the local Baptist association.

The First Regional Conference of World Missions held at the church in June drew representatives of some 30 denominations and other evangelical Christian organizations. Among those on the program was Clark Scanlon, executive assistant to the senior vice president for overseas operations at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "I believe they are setting out a model here," said Scanlon after his first-hand observation.

Scanlon noted significance in the conference theme. "The work of every Christian is to make disciples, but the work of every church is to do missions to the ends of the earth," he says, noting, he sees Patricio as bringing the vision of missions to the grass roots.

The Brazilian also may be helping to bring into focus a new pattern for multi-nation missionary cooperation.

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

Australian Baptists Seek
Help From Missionaries

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
7/30/86

SYDNEY, Australia (BP)—Baptists in Australia have pledged themselves to a new level of teamwork to spread the gospel throughout their nation by the year 2000.

And for the first time, they are asking Southern Baptist missionaries to help them.

"Crossover Australia," the evangelistic vision first considered by Baptists at a nationwide assembly in 1984, has ushered in a new era of cooperation between the six independent Baptist unions, which usually run their affairs separately. It also has led indirectly to closer ties between Australian and Southern Baptists.

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Historically, Australians have shied away from seeking the help of Southern Baptist missionaries. But in the past two years they have asked for and received four missionary couples to help them start new churches. A fifth couple was appointed in June. Other Southern Baptists—a volunteer youth worker and three journeymen—also have been assigned to Australia.

Baptist leaders say the influx of Southern Baptist workers shows barriers are dissolving between Australian and Southern Baptists. Harry Monro, coordinator for the Crossover Australia campaign, believes until recently Australian Baptists have purposely stopped short of working with Southern Baptists.

"Part of that resistance would be a historical thing," said Monro. "I think the aggressive missionary thrust of Southern Baptists has been threatening to some Australians. I think it has led to a fear among some, perhaps an unrealistic one, that if we got too close to Southern Baptists we would be swallowed up, that any cooperative venture may lead to the establishment of Southern Baptist churches in Australia."

Monro tells about traveling in the United States four years ago, when someone asked him how many Southern Baptist churches had been started in Australia. Monro said he realized immediately the person did not understand the Southern Baptist foreign mission enterprise, which helps national Baptists start their own churches and govern themselves. But the incident made Monro uneasy.

Australian Baptists themselves maintain about 185 missionaries, most of whom work in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. Out of a national population of nearly 16 million, Baptists in Australia number about 56,000 in some 700 churches. But because many Australian Christians practice their faith only nominally, Baptist congregations are generally some of the strongest in their communities.

Australian Baptist churches, however, are just now rediscovering outreach, Monro said. In Victoria, one of Australia's six states, Monro and others are sharpening an emphasis on church starting. Last year Victorian Baptists committed themselves to starting 76 new churches and leading 10,000 people to faith in Christ by the end of the century.

As Crossover Australia develops, Monro hopes it will deepen the vision for evangelism throughout the Baptists' national structures, state unions and local churches, and in the mind and heart of each Australian Baptist. Monro also is the Australian Baptist director of MasterLife, a discipleship-building program begun by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"We really must re-establish a climate for evangelism in our churches, and I think partnership with Southern Baptists has gone a long way towards doing that," said Monro. "We in Victoria are starting one new church per month, which in Victoria is probably more than we have done for a long time. That, of course, means there is a need for church planters."

Monro has found Victoria is not the only state where a vision for evangelism is beginning to take hold. The newest Southern Baptist missionary couple was invited by the Baptist union in the state of New South Wales. David and Judy Jackson from Amarillo, Texas, are expected to arrive in Campbelltown, a suburb of Sydney, before the end of the year. Jackson, pastor of the Gaston Avenue Baptist Church in Dallas until his appointment in June, will work in visitation and outreach with the Australian pastoral team in the local church.

The first Southern Baptist missionary couple assigned to Australia, Herman and Dottie Hayes from Haughton and Cameron, La., respectively, arrived in November 1984. The Hayeses opened Baptist work in South Vietnam in 1959 and stayed 16 years until missionaries left that country. Two years ago they were sought by the Bankstown Baptist Church outside of Sydney to begin working with a Vietnamese group in the area.

Hayes, who worked at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board from 1978 to 1984, encouraging people to consider missionary careers, has helped build a congregation with regular attendance of about 80. This fall the group plans to call its first Vietnamese pastor, who has been studying a two-year Bible course. Hayes will continue to help the group as the pastor requests, but he will spend most of his energy cultivating other Vietnamese in the area.

"The success of the work with Herman and Dottie has impressed people," said Stan Butchard, pastor of the Bankstown church. "This has meant we can do what we didn't have the funds to do ourselves. We couldn't reach out into these new areas. If I had been working among the Vietnamese, it would have been a slow work and not very effective. But someone like Herman came in and knew the language and the culture."

Cooperation between Australians and Texas Baptists in evangelistic crusades also has helped build bridges. "There used to be a little bit of suspicion about Americans in Australia," Butchard said. "But having had the experience of the crusades made a big difference to the attitude of our people. When you get to know people, it makes a difference. Sometimes prejudices arise out of ignorance."

Australians still are reaping results from those crusades. In June Bankstown recorded 14 new additions to its membership through baptism. This, Butchard said, resulted from the time Americans and Australians worked together in his community last August.

Near Bankstown, Southern Baptist missionaries Calvin and Betty Hogue of Dos Palos, Calif., are working to rebuild a congregation in the Sydney suburb of Miller. They started from nearly nothing in February. Now the group they work with draws up to 100 people to special services.

Southern Baptist missionaries Titus and Fulga Dan, Romanians from Cleveland, Ohio, are working with ethnics in the Sydney area. Missionaries Randy and Betty Rains from Mayfield, Ky., and Birmingham, Ala., respectively, are working with Mornington Baptist Church to start a new congregation in the state of Victoria.

Only a tiny vestige of feeling against Southern Baptist help is left in his country, said Monro. "In the last five years when I have had contact with the Foreign Mission Board, or with the Sunday School Board through MasterLife, or with our friends from Texas in partnership, we have found nothing but a warm, openhearted brotherliness, not from any position of superiority, but of fraternal relationships."

Where the relationship goes from here depends on needs, Monro believes. "The (Southern Baptist) convention is helping us do what we have to do, not doing it for us," he said. "That's what is largely breaking down any resistance there has been in the past."

He tells about a meeting of Victorian Baptist leaders 18 months ago when John Simpson, director for evangelism in the state, announced the expected arrival of church-starting missionaries from America. When someone from the floor rose to question why Southern Baptists were coming, Simpson replied the union had four churches ready to start new congregations and needed some outside expertise.

"Where are our church planters? Who are we going to put into those places?" asked Monro. "We don't have those people. Those church planters who are coming will be working with pastors of our churches. And we believe if that assistance is available, then we should accept it."

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

Washington Pastor Elected
Canadian Seminary President

Baptist Press
7/30/86

CALGARY, Alberta (BP)--Clinton M. Ashley of Pullman, Wash., has been named first president of Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Calgary, Alberta.

Ashley was chosen by the executive board of the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention in July. He will begin his duties Sept. 1. Canadian Southern Baptists plan to begin seminary classes in September 1987. Construction was scheduled to begin on the first building this summer.

Ashley will move from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Pullman, where he has been pastor since 1978. He and his wife, Andrea, previously served with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as missionaries to Brazil.

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Ashley has been on the Northwest Baptist Convention executive board since 1979. He is completing his second year as president of the convention and also has been a trustee for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., for three years. Ashley was a member of the Southern Baptist Canadian Study Committee appointed in 1983. He is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Missions emphasis will become an important part of the Canadian seminary, he promised.

The seminary also will fill a "vacuum for conservative, evangelical, biblically-based theological education in Canada," Ashley said, noting, the seminary will fill the need to educate students locally rather than in the United States.

The new seminary is the first agency of the Canadian Southern Baptist Convention. "The faster we can train our people, the faster our work will grow," Ashley said.

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CORRECTION: Please change second sentence of sixth graf of 7/25/86 story entitled "Eloise Cauthen Going Home To China" from: She worked with her husband in the southern city of Guilin (Kweilin) and in Shanghai in the 1940s and early '50s, until the new communist regime forced out all missionaries. to: She worked with her husband in the southern city of Guilin (Kweilin) and in Shanghai in the 1940s and early '50s, until all missionaries left China.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Banks Elected President
Of University Of Richmond

Baptist Press
7/30/86

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Samuel Alston Banks, president of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., for the past 11 years, has been elected president of the University of Richmond. He will succeed E. Bruce Heilman Dec. 1.

Heilman, who is retiring from the Virginia Baptist university after 15 years as president, will become chancellor. George M. Modlin will be chancellor emeritus.

Banks, an ordained United Methodist minister, will be the first non-Baptist to head the institution since it was founded in 1830 by Virginia Baptists.

F. Carlyle Tiller, rector of the university, said Banks was the unanimous choice of a presidential search committee and was elected by unanimous vote of the board. "He is exactly the right man for this time," Tiller said.

Tiller reported Banks was chosen from 250 applicants for the presidency. Joseph A. Jennings, chairman of the search committee, said "a number" of the applicants were Baptists and "a few" were Baptist ministers. "We didn't keep track" of the count, he said.

Banks, 58, is a native of Florida. He is a graduate of Duke University, Emory University and the University of Chicago.

Responding to a question concerning the choice of a non-Baptist, Banks said, "I don't make a great deal of it. As a professor of religion, I have taught persons of many faiths. As a psychologist, I have treated patients without asking their religious affiliation.

"I value very deeply the religious heritage of this institution," he added. "I value the Baptist heritage. I am very supportive of the relationship which (the university) has with the Baptist General Association of Virginia."

Tiller said that while the board specified that the presidential search committee bring a nominee "of deep spiritual commitment," the trustees had "not required any denomination."

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Banks is an avid singles tennis player and for 20 years has been a scuba diver and underwater photographer, regularly diving to 100-foot depths.

His wife, the former Joanne Trautmann, is professor of humanities and English at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. She said she plans initially to devote full time to being the wife of the president but did not rule out teaching.

She is author or editor of three books in literature and medicine. One of her personal interests is advocacy for the handicapped, a concern heightened by the family's experience with their son, Piers, who is multiply-handicapped.

During Banks' presidency at Dickinson the value of the endowment portfolio has tripled as has the level of annual giving. Admission applications more than doubled.

