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Bill Targets
Child Porn

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP)—Pornography opponents hope legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate will put a dent in America's growing child pornography industry.

A bill introduced by Sen. William Roth, R-Del., would broaden legal efforts to control sexual exploitation of children and advertising of child pornography. The bill, S. 2398, has 13 co-sponsors from both major parties and the endorsement of the Reagan administration.

Supporters of the legislation believe the bill will close some legal loopholes which now make possible the operation of networks of pedophiles—adults who engage in sexual activity with children.

One proposal in the bill would prohibit advertising of child pornography and solicitation of children for sexual purposes. Another proposal would revise the Mann Act, which currently applies to interstate transportation of female minors for sexual activity, to include males as well. The legislation also would punish this activity whether or not the youth was being exploited commercially as in the case of prostitution. Much of the sexual abuse of minors currently involves children and youth who are simply traded from one pedophile to another.

Larry Braidfoot of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission praised the legislation as "an important step in the effort to crack down on child pornography."

Braidfoot, who has worked with Broadman Films to produce a new film on pornography for Baptist churches, pointed out the United States is the world's leading consumer of child pornography.

Production, distribution or sale of child pornography in this country is prohibited by federal law. Yet about 20,000 Americans have been identified by U.S. Customs Service officials as purchasers of child pornography, most of it imported from Europe.

Child pornography was not even mentioned in the 1970 report of the Presidential Commission on Pornography. However, law enforcement and customs officials estimate by the late 1970s the child pornography industry was producing and distributing more than 250 commercial magazines each month, most of them imported.

The recent report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography and other studies also have focused public attention on the relationship between child pornography and the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. According to customs officials, the number of child pornography cases has risen dramatically in the last several years, with more than 200 cases in the first seven months of 1986 alone.

Opponents of child pornography also hope more European countries will join the battle. In recent years, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands have outlawed child pornography.

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Injured Texas Acteen Speaks
First Words; Doctors Optimistic

By Ken Camp

F-Texas

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DALLAS (BP)—Six months ago, 13-year-old Stefani Johnson lay in the intensive care unit of Harris Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, unconscious and in critical condition. About two weeks ago, she spoke her first words since the March 7 car-pedestrian accident that injured her, two other Baptist Acteens and an adult leader.

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"It's been a very gradual thing, but we're so thankful for each level of improvement as she reaches it," said Karen Johnson, Stefani's mother. "This represents a lot of prayers that are being answered."

Stefani, Carrie Bass, Kelly Lynn Greene and their counselor, Melanie Tate—all from University Baptist Church in Fort Worth—were struck by a car on the campus of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, during the state Acteens IMPACT 1986 conference in March. The driver of the car, a Baylor senior, was not injured. No charges were filed.

Both Stefani and Carrie Bass sustained head injuries in the accident, while Kelly Lynn Greene suffered knee, tendon and ligament damage and Tate seriously injured her legs. Although all were injured seriously, Stefani's recovery has been in question the most.

"The doctors never could give us any kind of timetable," said her mother. "We just had to watch and wait and pray a lot."

After the accident, Stefani was admitted initially into Waco's Providence Hospital and was transported by CareFlite helicopter to Harris Hospital in Fort Worth within 24 hours. She showed no visible response to any stimulus, but a CATSCAN three days after the accident did indicate brain activity, giving physicians reason for cautious optimism.

On March 29, her mother and father, Crawford Johnson, saw Stefani open her eyes, and two days later she opened her eyes for her doctor, indicating she had reached the first level of consciousness.

"From there it was a slow, slow process of gaining ground little bit by little bit," said her mother. In time, Stefani was moved to Westside Care Center in Fort Worth, where she could have around-the-clock nursing care as well as visits from physical therapists and speech therapists.

"She has been coming out of it much like a stroke patient, having to learn to reuse her vocal chords and muscles," Karen Johnson explained. Two months ago, Stefani began using her vocal chords to make inarticulate noises, and about two weeks ago her speech therapist succeeded in teaching her to say "no."

"Then (on Aug. 26) a nurse came into the room to do something for Stefani. I told Stefani to say 'thank you' and she parroted back 'thank you,'" Johnson said. By that evening, Stefani was parroting words readily, and soon afterwards she began to initiate creative conversation.

"It's still kind of mechanical-sounding. It takes a lot of effort for her, and the words come out one syllable at a time," Johnson said. On Sept. 4, Stefani returned to the rehabilitation wing of Harris Hospital for additional therapy.

"Literally, we know of people around the world who have been praying for Stefani. We all have reason to be optimistic now," said Johnson, adding Stefani has been able to tell her father what kind of pizza she wanted and was able to talk on the phone with Carrie Bass.

"It was like somebody just turned on the switch. She still has a long way to go, but now she's really making progress," said Charlene Bass, Carrie's mother. "It just goes to show that we can't put time limits on God. We can't box him in."

Bass noted Carrie, who was listed as critical herself and was unconscious for 20 hours after the accident, has made remarkable progress. Although she missed the end of the last school year, she was able to complete all of the work assigned to her through a homebound student program, and on Sept. 2 she entered the eighth grade at Wedgewood Middle School with the rest of her class.

Kelly Greene, daughter of Charles and Minnie Greene, underwent therapy on her legs throughout the summer and is progressing well, said Bass, church secretary at University Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Melanie Tate is making slow progress recovering from her leg injuries. She still is mostly homebound and is not expected to be able to drive a car until after Christmas, Bass said.

A support fund for the families of the accident victims has been established at University Baptist Church. People wishing to contribute should designate their gifts as "Acteen Family Support Fund" and make checks payable to: University Baptist Church, 2720 Wabash, Fort Worth, Texas 76109.

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Samford Chooses Pat Pattillo
For University Relations Post

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9/8/86

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Wesley M. (Pat) Pattillo, an administrator at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., for 21 years, has been named vice president for university relations at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Pattillo, who has been vice president for development and public relations at Southern Seminary since 1972, will join Samford Sept. 15. He will be responsible for the offices of development, alumni affairs and public relations at the Alabama Baptist university.

Total gifts of non-church revenue increased more than 500 percent during a 10-year period under Pattillo's leadership at Southern, while the number of donors at the \$1,000 level increased from 18 two years before he assumed his post to 139 last year. Participation in national alumni functions also increased almost 600 percent, noted Samford President Thomas E. Corts.

Pattillo joined Southern Seminary in 1965 as director of information services. He was named executive assistant to the president in 1967. After being appointed vice president in 1972, he received additional responsibility as executive director of Southern Seminary Foundation in 1977.

Pattillo is a graduate of the University of Georgia and Ohio State University. He is an accredited member of Public Relations Society of America.

Pattillo has been president of the Baptist Public Relations Association and of the Religious Public Relations Council, and chairman of the telecommunications committee of Kentuckian Metroversity, a consortium of seven colleges and graduate schools. He is chairman of the Commission on Resources and Promotion for the Baptist World Alliance.

Born in Mobile, Ala., Pattillo is married to the former Zelma Mullins of Wise, Va. They are the parents of a daughter, Laura, 16, and a son, Stephen, 14.

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Truett-McConnell Elects
Fulbright As President

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CLEVELAND, Ga. (BP)—H.M. Fulbright has been elected president of Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., a two-year Georgia Baptist school.

Fulbright is executive director of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders and has been involved with education in Georgia for 37 years.

He is a graduate of Georgia Southern University, Peabody College and Georgia State University.

Fulbright has been an administrator in several Georgia public schools. He is past president and past legislative chairman of the Georgia Association of School Superintendents, organizing chairman and executive secretary of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, past chairman of Georgians United for Education, a member of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators and American Association of School Administrators and a member and legislative chairman of Phi Delta Kappa.

He is the coordinator for Laity Abroad Program for the Georgia Baptist Convention, a trustee of Penfield Christian Home, a trustee of the Georgia Council on Moral and Civic Affairs; and an adjunct professor at Georgia State University and West Georgia College.

Fulbright and his wife, Norma, have two children and one granddaughter.

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Fort Worth Hispanic Church
Leads In Rio Grande Ministry

By Ken Camp

F - Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—With 12 nationalities represented in its own congregation and numerous others living in the surrounding neighborhood, Iglesia Bautista Central could consider western Fort Worth, Texas, its full-time mission field.

However, since 1980 the Hispanic church has broadened its missions vision through involvement in summer mission trips to the Rio Grande River. The trips were coordinated and planned in cooperation with the River Ministry of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"It is ironic that there are not enough Hispanic churches involved in River Ministry. So many of them are so involved in holding their ground where they are that they are not letting the mission field be the challenge it should be," says David Dixon, pastor of the Fort Worth church.

This year, 21 members of Iglesia Central spent July 19-26 at Iglesia Bautista Bethel in El Cadillo, Mexico. The small town is near Ciudad Carmargo, Mexico, across the border from Rio Grande City, Texas. The group conducted daytime Vacation Bible Schools in El Cadillo and in nearby Valdeces, and in the evenings members led evangelistic services in both towns.

The group of 16 adults and five youth included representatives of eight Caribbean, Central American, South American and North American nations who now live in western Fort Worth.

"They thought we were the United Nations when we introduced ourselves," says Dixon.

A Panamanian-American nurse from Iglesia Central conducted a class for mothers while their children attended Vacation Bible School. She taught them basic first aid techniques and discussed health, hygiene and women's concerns with them.

"She was able to get closer to the ladies than any of the rest of us because they felt free to discuss personal, intimate matters with her," says Dixon. "The ladies were able to share with her, and she could, in turn, share with them."

Ministering in the villages south of the Rio Grande brought back childhood memories for many participants.

"Whether they came from Columbia, Peru, Cuba or wherever, the sight of children playing in the streets reminded them of the towns where they grew up," Dixon recalls. "It helped them get back in touch with their roots and opened their eyes to the potential for missions work there."

Ministry and missions to Hispanics in general and to persons along the Rio Grande in particular has long been a way of life for Dixon.

His first experience came when he led an international student choir at the Baptist Student Union of Texas Women's University while studying at nearby North Texas State University in Denton. After graduating with a master's degree in English, he traveled to Granada, Spain, where he taught for two years.

Returning to the United States in 1978 to study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, he began attending Iglesia Central and met Susie Frazier, who was youth minister there at the time. Frazier had become involved in River Ministry and missions to Hispanics first at her home church—First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas—and later as a summer missionary for six years while a student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and Southwestern Seminary.

Dixon says when he and Frazier started dating, "One of our dreams was for the church to become involved in River Ministry." The couple married in 1980, and three weeks later they led a group that built a medical clinic near El Paso, Texas.

In 1982-83, the Dixons were extended term mission volunteers with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He was pastor of a church in Granada and taught English classes at the church. The couple also worked at the World Mission Church Growth Center on the Canary Islands. After returning to the United States, he was called as pastor of Iglesia Central in August of 1985.

"I feel a calling into Hispanic missions and ultimately to foreign missions," says Dixon, who currently is working toward a doctorate at Southwestern Seminary.

His dissertation is an examination of Liberation Theology, a Latin American school of thought that emphasizes God's concern for the poor and oppressed. While acknowledging the shortcomings of that theological system, he says studying it has allowed him to "get deeper into the Hispanic mentality."

That understanding of Hispanics has been invaluable at Iglesia Central, where he had helped provide classes in English as a second language, preparation of income tax returns and citizenship education as well as helping with job placement and housing assistance.

Eventually, Dixon hopes to see Iglesia Bautista sponsor a mission. In the meantime, the church will continue its involvement in River Ministry and in outreach to Hispanics and others in western Fort Worth.

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F - Texas

Widow Tripling 'Mites'
To Support Mission Work

By Ken Camp

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DALLAS (BP)—When the bank teller in Shepherd, Texas, empties a jar full of coins and counts out change for Agnes Jarboe every few weeks, he is counting a widow's mites.

Like the biblical character who cast her savings into the temple treasury, Jarboe of First Baptist Church of Shepherd sacrifices daily for missions.

Each day she has any change, the 86-year-old East Texan drops her coins into a jar set aside for the Mary Hill Davis Centennial Offering for State Missions. When the jar is full, she takes it to the bank, exchanges the coins for paper money and begins filling the jar again.

"I've practiced it a long time," she says. "I knew it was the only way I could triple."

Like thousands of other Texas Baptists, Jarboe accepted the challenge last year to triple her 1984 gifts to state missions and then triple again for the 1986 offering. Through the Mary Hill Davis Centennial Offering for State Missions, Texas Baptists are seeking to start 2,000 new churches by 1990 as part of the Mission Texas emphasis. The strategy for reaching the unprecedented goal is to "triple/triple."

Jarboe succeeded in tripling her \$15 offering for 1984 by giving \$45 in 1985. But living on a fixed income, she realized her personal goal of \$135 in 1986 would be difficult to reach.

"I get a Social Security check, and I receive a small (Veterans Administration) pension. Other than a little money I get from writing for the newspaper, that is it," she says. Although nearly blind, Jarboe dictates a weekly personal column for the San Jacinto, Texas, News-Times.

She began saving her money in a fruit jar in order to triple her offering. At last count, she is about halfway to her goal. "Sometimes I put in a \$5 bill or a \$1 bill. I don't handle that much money, so I don't have change all the time. If I were just saving change, I would never reach the goal," she notes.

Saving for the state missions offering is only one aspect of Jarboe's missions involvement. She was a charter member of the Woman's Missionary Union at First Baptist Church of Shepherd, which was formed in 1921, and she has long been active in the missions organization.

Currently, Jarboe is enjoying taking part in the "100 Days of Praise and Prayer" for state missions. Though her age and health present physical limitations, she participates through a telephone prayer chain. Her everyday conversation is sprinkled with references to missionaries, preachers and others for whom she is praying.

Although she lifts up many individuals in prayer daily, her only prayer request for herself is that she will be able to reach her triple goal this year. "It isn't easy with my health being what it is. Lately, I've had shingles. There have been a lot of expenses," she says. "But I hope and pray that I'll make it. I really believe I will."