



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #75C
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-235E
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

September 22, 1986

86-138

Plans Developed To Combat
World 'Hunger Holocaust'

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Only daring plans and stronger financial support will allow Southern Baptists to help counteract a "hunger holocaust" that could sweep through every developing nation, insists John R. Cheyne, director the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's world hunger program.

Cheyne and other board leaders are attempting to consider more imaginative ways to help the whole person—body, mind and spirit.

"All the worldwide projections regarding population, economics, food production and drought would indicate no other possibility than a major famine, a hunger holocaust," Cheyne predicts. The poverty problem throughout the world is growing faster than the world is able to respond, he adds.

This year between 13 million and 18 million people will starve to death, experts say. That's 35,000 people a day, or 24 people a minute. The number of people who die from hunger every two days equals the number who were killed instantly by the atom bomb in Hiroshima. And 50 percent of them live in just five countries—India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Pakistan and Indonesia.

The hunger crisis in many countries stems from a mindset that assumes people can be taught to live better without being freed from their natural tendency to sin, Cheyne says, adding worldwide "modernization" falls short of being an answer to world hunger because it does not reach individuals at this point of basic need.

For example, while Africa grows in population faster than any place in the world, secular aid programs there seek to build up national economies. In contrast, Southern Baptist relief efforts seek to help individuals understand their relationship to God and their environment. Because their priorities change, these transformed people have a different mindset which motivates them to accept new ideas for helping themselves.

Millions of people moving into cities are creating mass ghettos worldwide, making it hard to reach them with the gospel using traditional methods. Many cities throughout the developing world are swelling at a rate of 15 percent per year, while their economic growth is about 3 percent.

Migrants to the cities find no jobs and own few assets to sell for income. Their caloric intake is low, and their motivation wanes. If something is not done to help them become self-sufficient, they will become a collective welfare state for the world to nurture, Cheyne says. At present, no one has developed a system to reach them with help.

Cheyne advocates a new set of personal lifestyle priorities for Southern Baptists who want to give enough of their income to help these masses. The urgency of such a lifestyle change will be emphasized in many churches Oct. 12 as the denomination observes World Hunger Day.

Southern Baptists gave a record amount for world hunger last year because of the acute needs in Ethiopia and other famine-stricken African countries. Many joined in the convention-wide "Pray for Rain" effort, and rains have brought temporary relief to Ethiopia and other countries.

Cheyne emphasizes it will take regular giving to world hunger relief to provide the funds necessary to make a lasting impact.

--more--

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

Through the first eight months of this year, world hunger gifts are lagging about 42 percent behind those for the same period in 1985. Last year Southern Baptists had given just more than \$7.5 million through August. Through August of this year they have given about \$4.4 million, about the pace for the same period in 1984.

The ministry of missionary Edith Vaughn in Brazil shows how people can be reached for Jesus Christ through relief programs. In the state of Pernambuco, hundreds of families have been spiritually transformed and have learned to use their new philosophy of life to better themselves, after being reached through Southern Baptist-funded programs outside of churches.

Vaughn, in addition to working with seven churches in Pernambuco, has started several programs to help Brazilians live free of need. Once she was told she would be stoned if she began work in the rural village of Canaan. But five years ago she was driving through the town when her tire went flat. As she was getting it fixed, the Brazilian Baptists with her started a Bible study in the village square.

From that beginning, Vaughn invited women in Canaan to a "mothers' club" in the village. She began teaching the Bible and sometimes gave the mothers little helps, such as packages of milk or cereal.

One day the priest confronted several of the women about their attendance at the mothers' club. "A nice group of them have accepted Jesus, only they are scared to become Baptists," says Vaughn. "This one lady looked the priest right in the eye and said, 'I am not going to stop going to her classes. I like them, and besides that, when I was hungry your church did nothing for me. This lady brought in food to help us.'"

When she first came as a missionary to Brazil in 1954, Vaughn began a social work center in Recife. Once in Brazil she asked for funding for the Friendship House community center, and she worked there for the first 27 years of her missionary career.

"For many years we didn't give anything out, just the gospel," says Vaughn. "When I thought about the Friendship House program, I asked the Lord what I would do to attract people, whether it would be a television program or what it would be. I opened the Bible to where Jesus said, 'If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.'"

Although the program deals with all aspects of people's welfare, its foundation is teaching the gospel.

"There are hundreds of mothers who have come to Friendship House...and hundreds of homes in Recife where today the mother and father are working and are members of a church," says Vaughn. "They have a different life because they were helped and came to know the Lord."

Vaughn tells also about a Brazilian pastor who opened a small clothing-production project using World Hunger funds left from another project. He taught women how to sew clothes, and they began making money. Lifted above the starvation level, the women's families learned to tithe, and now they have money in the church treasury.

Cheyne does not believe such programs will prevent the world hunger crisis he sees coming. But he does say they will serve as models for other programs and offer hope for more people as times get worse. He sees even more widespread use of gospel-based self-help programs. For instance, he hopes highly placed national Baptists in government and industry can be taught how to use their business contacts to start self-help programs for needy people.

"The important thing is that these people can become self-sustaining and enabled to survive in a way that brings them the most joy and fulfillment," he says. Cheyne doubts whether any other organization, in terms of number or quality of personnel overseas, can compare with Southern Baptist missionaries who already are in place and ready to help.

"I think we have a very vital contact with the peasant farmer in most of these countries through the organization of the national churches. If you're going to produce any kind of effective program, you've got to have a local peer structure to work with. The very fact that we have conventions of churches in these countries gives us an entrance into the social structure that others might not have."

BTN Begins
Third Year

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—BTN, Southern Baptists' teaching and training network, has entered its third year of operation, with subscriptions topping 900 and a long-range commitment to continue aiding ministry efforts of local churches.

Joe Denney, director of the telecommunications department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said he receives reports every week from churches who successfully are implementing BTN programs into their ministry efforts.

The 900 subscribers to BTN, the Baptist Telecommunication Network, make the material available to more than 8,000 churches because of the number of district associations which subscribe, Denney said.

He estimated about 4,000 of the subscribing churches—or one-half of the possible users—have used a tape at least one time. This represents more than 11 percent of all Southern Baptist churches which have made some use of BTN during the network's first two years.

A recent survey of subscribers to BTN programs revealed Sunday school preparation messages, or programs, comprise the six most popular programs taped in churches. The most popular program is "Preparing to Teach Fours and Fives," which was taped in 72 percent of subscribing churches. The top six programs all are aired monthly.

The most frequently taped weekly program is the Adult Life and Work preparation message, with 65 percent of subscribers taping on a regular basis. Other popular programs which were frequently taped include "Equipping Deacons as Servant Leaders," "Missions Update," "Missions File," "Life and Work for Youth" and "Ministering to Families Today."

"SBC NewScene," the weekly news program, is watched more often at the time of transmission than any other program on BTN. "SBC NewScene" is broadcast on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Central Time, and reportedly watched by about 40 percent of subscribing churches.

Because of requests for tapes of single programs, Denney announced that beginning Oct. 1, tapes of programs will be available for \$25 each. Program tapes will be available about one month after showing on BTN.

Sunday school lesson preparation tapes will not be available on tape, Denney said, because of the difficulty of producing and mailing tapes in advance of telecast dates.

Denney said purchase of individual tapes can be convenient, but the purchase of 12 tapes would pay for a year's BTN subscription for a small church. Also, he said, the board's offer still is available for churches to receive free use of a television receive-only system for signing a five-year subscription agreement.

A total of 430 churches had received the equipment as of Sept. 1, and about 250 systems are available to other interested churches.

BTN is one of two telecommunication networks sponsored by Southern Baptist agencies. BTN is sponsored by the Sunday School Board, and ACTS, which programs into homes, is sponsored by the SBC Radio and Television Commission.

—30—

No Increase In 1987
Church Insurance Rates

Baptist Press
9/22/86

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist ministers and church employees participating in the convention Annuity Board's church insurance program will not face a rate increase in 1987.

But effective Jan. 1, 1987, hospital nursery care of newborn infants will be a covered expense for participants.

—more—

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the "well baby care" benefit will save 3,000 families several hundred dollars each in hospital expenses.

Despite medical costs which increased by 7.5 percent last year, Morgan said the board has had no increase in medical insurance rates over the last two years. He cited good claims experience and sound management as reasons for no rate increase.

Southern Baptist church ministers and employees may call their annuity representative or call the toll free number, (800) 262-0511, for information on enrolling in the church insurance program.

—30—

Youth Spiritual
Decisions Tabbed

Baptist Press
9/22/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—National youth-related summer conferences and camps resulted in 5,304 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

At Centrifuge youth camps, 4,283, or almost 18 percent of participants made public decisions. These included 520 professions of faith, 3,242 rededications and 531 vocational decisions. Nearly 25,000 young people attended Centrifuge camps this summer.

Centrifuge, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department, was held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers; Mobile College, Mobile,, Ala.; and North Greenville College in Tigerville, S.C. Two traveling staffs conducted camps on the East and West Coasts. First-time Centrifuge camps were conducted in Korea and Hawaii.

A total of 1,011 spiritual decisions were recorded at youth conferences sponsored by the board's church training department at Ridgecrest and Glorieta. These included 125 professions of faith in Christ, 682 rededications, 155 vocational decisions and 49 others.

Also, at Centrifuge, a missions offering of more than \$65,000 was contributed by youth and their sponsors. It will go to five mission points across the United States.

—30—

Former Missionary Urges
WMUers To Be Volunteers

By Carol Garrett

Baptist Press
9/22/86

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Two summer missionaries did in 45 minutes what full-time missionary Jack Merritt hadn't been able to do in months of work.

Their mission field was the sweltering laundry room of a huge New York City apartment complex. As the two girls washed and folded the clothes of the most disagreeable tenant in the building, her curiosity got the better of her suspicion.

"Why are you doing this for me?" the woman asked when they refused to accept payment. With the response that they just wanted to be her friend, those two summer missionaries were able to begin opening the heart of a woman who had refused time and again even to open her door to the career missionary.

It's no wonder Merritt believes in the value of volunteers.

He believes so strongly in what the average Southern Baptist can do in missions that he now works to place volunteers in appropriate places of ministry. As volunteer consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's special mission ministries department, he discussed needs and opportunities for missions volunteers at a national Woman's Missionary Union leadership conference.

"I believe in volunteers—volunteers of all ages. God does not ask us to do something we cannot do," he said. Last year, more than 45,000 Southern Baptists of all ages gave their time to be volunteers on the home mission field. —more—

There are programs available for high school, college and adult volunteers. Merritt said he believes more Southern Baptists would participate if they realized there were a way for them to serve.

"There aren't enough volunteers to go around. We're only meeting 70 to 75 percent of the requests coming in. I think there are a lot of Southern Baptists who could meet these needs if they knew," he said.

High school students can be part of mission youth groups. Last year, almost 1,000 groups of all sizes were assigned. After completing 11th grade, students can be Sojourners, participants in a 10-week summer program for high school young people.

Teen-age girls who are members of Acteens, the WMU education organization for teens, can participate in Acteens Activators. The Activator groups must undergo at least 50 hours of training, which includes extensive planning for their one to two weeks of work with a home missionary.

"Reports we're getting back from missionaries who've used Acteens Activators are, 'Send me some more.' When they hit the ground on the mission field, they're ready to go," Merritt said.

A church of any size can send a mission youth group, no matter how large or small, he said. "High school missions volunteers go all over the country and the word we're getting back is that these high school kids are doing as well as college and adult volunteers," he reported.

Each year, about 1,500 college students go out as summer missionaries. An additional 100 to 200 college students now are assigned during times other than summer to work as semester missionaries in such areas as beach and mountain resorts.

College students who want to do missions work in the summer but also need to work are participating in Innovators. Merritt said the Home Mission Board helps them find jobs in an area where volunteers are needed, and they minister and work in that area.

About 1,500 students each year are participating in SPOTS, or Special Projects Other Than Summer. Merritt said Baptist Student Union groups who want to do missions projects sometime other than in the summer are prime candidates for SPOTS.

Adults interested in doing mission work—for as little as a week or as much as a year—are being assigned through the Christian Service Corps.

"We want to work with families and have projects that can take families. They have programs of a nature that children can fit right in. We think it's good for the family," he said.

For the past two years, the board even has assigned grandparents and grandchildren together.

For adults who want to volunteer for one year or longer, the board sponsors a program called Mission Service Corps. Currently about 700 volunteers serve around the country in this program. The volunteers usually are responsible for their finances, but the board works with them to provide both group and individual training, Merritt said.

Volunteer needs still open for this fall include people who enjoy camping to work as chaplains in resort areas, people who have mechanical skills, an early childhood education teacher for the Bronx in New York City and volunteers who are bilingual to serve in several locations.

In addition to these specific needs, Merritt cited continuing needs for people with all kinds of skills.

Balentine Resigns Shorter Presidency
To Accept North Carolina Pastorate

ROME, Ga. (BP)—Shorter College President George L. Balentine has resigned to accept the pastorate of Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.

Balentine, the 17th president of the Baptist college in Rome, Ga., has been chief administrator since July 1, 1982.

An interim president should be named within two weeks, said Austin Moses, chairman of the college's board of trustees. The next step for the board will be to appoint a presidential search committee.

Balentine came to Shorter after seven years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Augusta, Ga. He was co-founder of Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The Arkansas native is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Following pastorates in Arkansas, Kentucky and Florida, Balentine joined the faculty of Palm Beach Atlantic College in 1968 as dean of students. He later was religion professor and academic dean. He left Palm Beach Atlantic in 1975 to pastor the Augusta church.

—30—

Black Relations Pioneer
Leaves Mission Board

By Eric Miller

Baptist Press
9/22/86

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Willie Simmons, a modern-day pioneer in attracting blacks to foreign missions, has resigned to return to bivocational church work in California.

Simmons was head of the newly formed black church relations section of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and worked with some of the 800 to 1,000 black churches and 300,000 blacks in the convention.

He will return to Los Angeles, where he will work as an electric station operator for a power company and will be pastor of a church. He intends to get more black churches in the California area involved in foreign missions.

Milestones in Simmons' efforts include the recruiting of 45 blacks to serve as short-term volunteers on the mission field, the development of a network of black church ties to the board and three pastors in Illinois, Texas and California working to inform and recruit blacks.

Another milestone was the board's establishment of an endowment fund to help black seminary students who sense a clear call to foreign missions. It also will help black volunteers travel overseas. Simmons also has encouraged more blacks to give to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified budget which supports missions, evangelism and education worldwide.

The board not only will replace Simmons with another black by early 1987, but it also is creating an ethnic relations section to work with the 2,500 Hispanic churches across the convention, said Harlan Spurgeon, board vice president for human resources.

Simmons will continue in California to draw blacks toward foreign missions. "My goal is to get blacks involved in all of the 107 countries" where Southern Baptists have missionaries, he said.

Through Simmons' efforts, black churches are raising \$115,000 for the William W. Colley Building. This three-family housing unit at the board's Missionary Learning Center near Richmond, Va., was named in honor of a black missionary appointed by the board in 1874.

"Not many people know that blacks have been involved in missions since the early days of the convention, way back in 1845," Simmons said. During the first 35 years of the convention, the board appointed 48 blacks to Africa.

—more—

Then, for an 85-year span ending in 1965, no blacks were appointed. The feeling was that American blacks might "stir up the nationals or influence them" in the wrong way, he explained.

Only two blacks had been appointed in modern times until Simmons joined the staff. Now, three are on the field and two more are headed to the field.

Blacks have been interested and concerned all along about foreign missions, Simmons noted. They just needed to hear of the opportunities and that the board "is 100 percent committed to appointing all black Southern Baptists and other ethnics who qualify," he said.

—30—

Ethiopia's Special Ed. Expert:
23-Year-Old Southern Baptist

Baptist Press
9/22/86

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP)--Ethiopia's leading expert on special education is a 23-year-old Southern Baptist.

Loretta Strickland, a 1985 graduate of Vanderbilt University, is helping develop Ethiopia's first public school class for mentally retarded students and those with other learning disabilities or disturbed behavior.

Strickland, of Birmingham, Ala., is in the midst of a two-year assignment in the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's journeyman program.

"I have been contacted by family after family asking, 'What will we do with this child?'" Strickland says of the need for special education classes in Ethiopia.

"A man came 120 kilometers because he heard someone could help him with his mentally retarded 10-year-old son. He told me through an interpreter that the people in his community urged him to let the child die when it was just a baby because they knew it wasn't normal.

"I think that probably happens often."

Ethiopia's Ministry of Education is tapping her training, she explains, simply because no Ethiopians yet possess special education expertise. The government became aware of her potential through the paperwork she filled out to enter the country.

One of her first projects was helping prepare a textbook to train Ethiopian teachers in special education.

The initial class may begin next year. Long-range education plans call for special education classes throughout the country, Strickland says.

Assisting the Ministry of Education is but one of several dimensions of her work in Ethiopia. She teaches special education student Douglas Groce, 10, one of five children of missionaries Lynn and Suzanne Groce. Lynn is administrator and agriculturalist for the Southern Baptist mission. She also tutors other special education students and teaches a fifth grade mathematics class at a school operated by the Sudan Interior Mission.

Through her special education work, Strickland hopes to have a family ministry.

"I think it can make a world of difference to a family to know that they are not the only ones with this problem. They haven't done some gross sin that caused them to have such a child."

In a lot of places, these children are put in a closet or never let out of the house because people are so ashamed of them, she says. On the other hand, some children have learned how to pitch a fit to get attention and use that ability to run the family.

In both instances, a family needs to know that these children can learn, though not at a normal pace and not to the extent that other children can, she says.

Strickland likes to tell of 13-year-old Asaini's progress.

—more—

"She learned the other day how to make the letter 'A'.

"For most people, that wouldn't be any big deal, but for a little girl who has never written anything before, that is exciting. She had never been to school before I started teaching her in January."

And she smiles when talking about Nicky, 11, who is unable to walk, talk or write because of cerebral palsy. He recently gestured to his mother that he wanted to take a rose to his teacher.

"I wouldn't trade places with anyone in the world," Strickland says.

Ironically, she says she prayed for a month that she wouldn't get sent to Ethiopia in the journeyman program. She listed the country as one of her three choices after seeing the need for a special education teacher.

But when she was selected for Ethiopia, "I had to really consider whether I was applying to go somewhere exciting or whether I was applying to serve," she says. "I realized my reason had to be to serve."

—30—

US-2 Missionary Becomes 1st
Seminary Coordinator For Deaf

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

Baptist Press
9/22/86

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Julie Elaine Balthrop has been named the first coordinator of interpretive services for deaf theology students attending a Southern Baptist seminary.

A US-2 missionary under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, she will work in cooperation with the Louisiana Baptist Convention's missions division and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Balthrop will assist deaf students attending the seminary and seminary personnel with needs of deaf students.

Providing theological education for deaf ministers is a relatively new concept, said Donnie Wiltshire, pastor of Baptist Deaf Mission in New Orleans who has assisted seminary deaf students.

Unique challenges face deaf students, he noted. For example preaching traditionally has been an oral process, and students are graded on oral delivery. However, deaf students are graded on sign language delivery. Professors have depended on Wiltshire to evaluate the sign language delivery effectiveness.

This past year three deaf students received education at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Other seminaries have deaf students, also, Wiltshire said.

Providing education for deaf students is almost a one-on-one process. An interpreter must be in each class where a deaf student is enrolled. The goal is to schedule more than one deaf student to a class or else an interpreter is needed for each student.

Wiltshire, who has been an interpreter, said, "Interpreters can work a maximum of five hours because the work is tiring."

The Home Mission Board matches Louisiana Baptist funds for interpreters, and New Orleans Seminary provides work grants for deaf students.

Balthrop said her responsibilities will be to recruit and schedule interpreters, provide orientation and training for interpreters in using theological terms in sign language, act as resource person to assist seminary faculty and staff with needs of deaf students and help recruit deaf students for theological education.

"In the 1970s the concept of the deaf church got the imagination of Baptists. Now there are more than 30 deaf missions or churches in the Southern Baptist Convention," Wiltshire noted.

—more—

More deaf people are becoming interested in religious vocations, thus creating the need for their education. Southern Baptists entered the deaf ministry in the early 1930s when John Walter Michaels was appointed the first permanent Home Mission Board career deaf minister.

Daniel Johnson Jr., who was graduated from New Orleans Seminary in 1985 with the Master of Divinity degree, is circuit pastor to the deaf in Adolphe Stagg Baptist Association in Houma, La. He is the first student to receive Louisiana Baptist financial assistance to help provide an interpreter for his classes.

Balthrop, a native of Odessa, Texas, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Balthrop of Riverton, Wyo. She received the Masters of Arts degree in deaf education from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, in March.

She has worked as a summer intern with the deaf at Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas, classroom interpreter with the Resources for the Disabled at the University of Northern Colorado and as a dorm counselor at New Mexico School for the Deaf at Santa Fe.

In addition to work with seminary students, Balthrop will assist the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans in developing deaf ministries under the supervision of Miquel Olmedo, language ministry director.

—30—

Stewardship Visionary Leading
5-Year Effort For Latin World

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
9/22/86

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Stewardship is not determined by economic status, the leader of a five-year stewardship campaign for Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain contended.

"We need to talk to every person, rich or poor" about the time, talent and finances he or she invests in their local churches, Aldo Broda noted, "because God wants to bless all people who have the good will to give."

Broda, an Argentine, has been director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, the past nine years. He will become full-time coordinator of the Baptist Campaign for Total Stewardship in January.

The campaign's high point will come in 1989 as churches throughout the three regions emphasize stewardship in special studies for adults and Sunday school lessons for all age groups.

A range of stewardship materials is being published in four languages spoken in the regions, Spanish, Portuguese, English and French.

Next year, 620 stewardship leaders are to be trained—roughly 10 for every 4,000 Baptists in the participating countries. The following year, each is to train at least 10 more individuals to undergird the local church campaigns in 1989.

A 20-member committee of representatives of various Baptist conventions in the three regions and several Southern Baptist missionaries has been working with Broda for two years in planning the pioneering campaign.

"I've had a dream for many years" for such an effort, Broda said during a mid-September stewardship conference at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center near Rockville, Va.

His dream is rooted in his own pilgrimage. As a young Christian, he sensed God was asking, "What do you have in your hands?" He regularly replied he had little money and minimal training, "but all I have I bring to you."

—more—

In subsequent years, he moved from being a business man to a 13-year tenure as director of Argentina's Baptist publishing house. During three of those years, he was the convention's president and for 10 years the stewardship promoter. Through stewardship campaigns across Argentina, he saw "wonderful changes in the life of the church and in the life of the members."

And among the highlights of his nine years at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House is a new Spanish translation of the Bible.

Looking back on his opportunities for service, "God has made the multiplication more than the bread and the fishes," he said, "in the accounts of Jesus feeding the multitudes."

Broda believes positive, dramatic changes are in store for Christians who embark on a life of stewardship--changes with impact akin to new birth.

"When I teach about stewardship, I want to change the mentality," the notion that stewardship equals a plea for money, he said. "It's total stewardship. God wants all of you, not just one part."

Money, however, reflects a person's use of time and talent, he noted.

A church's budget, he added, reflects what it is committed to do and thus what is needed in finances and in church members' involvement. Sunday school, for example, requires money for literature and people as leaders. "God moves the church with people's money and their capacity," to use their talents, Broda said.

Stewardship is crucial to everyone's Christianity no matter what their income is, Broda believes, asking, "Why deprive the poor of God's blessing for their own offerings? Without stewardship, the Christian life is very poor. You don't enjoy the blessings of God and the challenges of every day."

Broda has written "The Challenge of Stewardship and Missions," one of two adult study books for the campaign. The other is "The Theology of Christian Stewardship" by Joao Falcao Sobrinho, emeritus executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

One workbook for families on money management is being developed as are two workbooks for church stewardship committees and a series of five Sunday school lessons for all age groups.

In 1990, Broda said, campaign leaders will explore ongoing ways of emphasizing stewardship in local churches.

—30—

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