



BAPTIST PRESS

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86-173

Right-Wrong Tension Evident
In Medicine, Argentine Says

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Christian medical workers are caught between living off sickness and praying for health, an Argentine Baptist physician told a group of healthcare professionals meeting in Richmond, Va.

The physician, Daniel Tíno, examined the responsibility doctors face as they influence life and death. "We all live off the sickness of people," said Tíno, also president of International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Tíno was speaking to colleagues at the 10th annual meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, a group of Baptist physicians and dentists that began in 1976 to foster spiritual growth among medical professionals and support Southern Baptist missions work. About 60 percent of the group has served in short-term mission assignments overseas.

In considering healthcare ethics, Tíno stressed the struggle between right and wrong in medicine. One of three international members attending the meeting, Tíno said much of the world lies at the mercy of questionable medical practice. He told of a leading surgeon in his country who operates unnecessarily, keeping a little bottle of gallstones that he shows to patients afterwards. The doctor tells patients he removed the gallstones from them.

Tíno also lamented the number of Third World abortions. Although Argentina prohibits abortions, Argentine doctors perform 355,000 each year, he said. "On a panel two weeks ago, I mentioned this situation, and a professor said to me, 'Don't worry about this. In Brazil we have 4 1/2 million abortions a year.'"

Worldwide, 40 million abortions occur each year because Christian professionals are not teaching their patients about medicine from the perspective of Jesus Christ, Tíno said: "We are not educating them. We are not telling them what the truth is."

Tíno called on members of the fellowship to influence Argentine medicine by making short-term mission trips to his country. "Come show us and teach us how to live the Christian life in our profession," he said. "We must witness by good professional practice. Come teach us how to organize medical-dental work in relation to our churches.

"Healthcare work, perhaps more than anything, gives the opportunity of showing the world what we are preaching about Christ and the love of our God. Christian medical people can accomplish that which the New Testament teaches us about Christian life."

Tíno's presence at the meeting signaled the fellowship's rapid growth from five men meeting in 1976 to more than 1,700 men and women from 41 states and nine foreign countries. This year the fellowship met jointly in Richmond with the Baptist Nursing Fellowship, a sister organization of more than 550 nurses organized in 1983 by a former missionary.

The medical-dental group has proposed setting up a larger organization called the Baptist Health Care Fellowship, which would include not only physicians and dentists, but also fellowships of nurses, hospital administrators, nutritionists, pharmacists and other such professionals.

Through the years, annual meetings of the medical-dental group have attracted top names in Baptist life and the medical profession. Speakers this year included William H. Foege, assistant surgeon general at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, and Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

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Foegen used infant mortality rates and life expectancy figures to show how world health has improved during the past 25 years. "When you look at television pictures of starving children in Africa, there is a tendency to think nothing will ever get better, that this is a bottomless pit, that it is futile," he said. "But I want to give you the good news on world health."

In the past 25 years the number of countries with an infant mortality rate of 15 percent has fallen from 59 to 11, he said. During the same period, the number of countries with life expectancy of under 40 has fallen from 34 to two, and the number of countries with a life expectancy of over 70 has risen from 13 to 42.

Claas told the group that Baptists, known to believe in the common priesthood of every believer, have abandoned their calling. "We are too often a minister-centered church. We have left too many things to the ministers," he said.

Because of this, "I appreciate what you medical people are doing to serve the Lord and build his kingdom."

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

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists
Enjoy Harmonious Annual Meeting

Baptist Press
11/20/86

ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP)—Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptists enjoyed an event that was described by outgoing President Frank Hamby as "more like an evangelism conference than a business meeting" when they convened for their annual convention Nov. 13-15.

Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn., hosted 204 convention messengers and visitors for the annual affair. The Minnesota-Wisconsin convention, which was organized in 1983, has 118 congregations and slightly less than 12,000 members.

Messengers to the annual meeting approved a 1987 budget of \$1,438,683. Minnesota-Wisconsin churches are expected to supply \$346,350 of that amount, with the rest coming from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin convention will pass on 25.25 percent of its budget to worldwide mission, evangelistic and educational endeavors funded through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program national unified budget. That contribution reflects a one-quarter percent increase over the 1986 designation.

Messengers elected Larry Faus, bivocational pastor of Gospel Baptist Church in Sparta, Wis., as president. He has been a pastor in the convention for 20 years and is director of pupil services for Sparta-area schools.

Other officers are John Tanner, pastor of Southtown Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn., first vice president; Ken Beker, layman from Roseville Baptist Church in Roseville, Minn., second vice president; Ruth Harris, member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Kenosha, Wis., recording secretary; and Clyde McClain, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Rochester, assistant recording secretary.

The 1987 annual meeting of the two-state convention will be Oct. 29-31 at North Center Baptist Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn.

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Northern Plains Baptists
Proclaim, 'God Plus Me'

Baptist Press
11/20/86

MINOT, N.D. (BP)—Southern Baptists from Montana and North and South Dakota re-elected their president and approved a budget decrease during the 19th annual meeting of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention Oct. 24-25.

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"God Plus Me" was the theme for the meeting, held at North Hill Baptist Church in Minot, N.D., and attended by 110 messengers and guests.

Gordon "Skip" Dean, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Rapid City, S.D., was chosen to serve another one-year term as president. Also re-elected was First Vice President Jim Eller, pastor of Buelah Baptist Church in Buelah, N.D. Other officers are Rick Sullivan, pastor of Rimrock Baptist Church in Billings, Mont., second vice president; June Highlan, executive assistant for the convention and a member of Knollwood Baptist Church in Rapid City, recording secretary; and Dorothy Rutledge, bookkeeper for the convention and also a member of Knollwood church, assistant recording secretary.

Feeling the pressure of a depressed agricultural economy, messengers adopted a \$1,117,250 budget for 1987, which reflects a 7.5 percent decrease from the current budget.

Convention leaders explained the budget reduction is designed to help bring the budget in line with reasonable expectations for revenue. The convention currently is facing a 14 percent budget deficit. The new budget is 6.5 percent higher than income on the 1986 budget.

The Northern Plains Convention's 157 churches and missions are expected to contribute \$311,786 to the new budget. It also includes contributions of \$751,284 from the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board, \$29,080 from the SBC Sunday School Board, \$1,600 from the SBC Brotherhood Commission and \$14,000 from the convention's district associations.

Featured speaker for the convention was Mark Sutton, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Hammond, La. The annual sermon was delivered by Bert Murphy, pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Great Falls, Mont.; and Dean gave the presidential address.

The convention's 1987 annual meeting will be held at Rimrock Baptist Church in Billings, Oct. 21-22.

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Utah-Idaho Baptists Consider
Hosting SBC Annual Meeting

Baptist Press
11/20/86

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)--The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention seated messengers from five new churches, voted to consider the possibility of hosting the Southern Baptist Convention, adopted a record budget and re-elected its president during the convention's annual meeting Nov. 11-12 in Salt Lake City.

Of the five new churches accepted into the fellowship, one is from Oregon, two are from Idaho and two are from Utah. In addition, one church announced it had voted to disaffiliate with the convention for doctrinal reasons. The changes brought the number of churches in the convention to 94. Those churches were represented by 166 messengers to the convention, and 47 visitors attended the annual meeting.

A motion proposing that the Utah-Idaho convention host the SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City was referred to the Utah-Idaho convention's executive committee. The motion was presented by Bailey Anderson, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Vernal, Utah, who said he believes the convention would be a good witness in the area and it would offer good exposure to pioneer Southern Baptist mission work.

In other business, messengers adopted a record 1987 budget of \$1,489,668, which includes a challenge budget of \$66,438. The new budget reflects a 7 percent increase over the previous budget. It calls for contributions of \$403,996 from Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist churches, a 16 percent increase over the 1986 amount. Twenty-one percent of the budget will support worldwide mission causes through the SBC Cooperative Program national budget.

Andy Hornbaker, pastor of Holladay Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, was re-elected convention president. Other officers are Huron Polnac, pastor of Cherry Lane Baptist Church in Meridian, Idaho, first vice president; Willis Blair, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church in Rupert, Idaho, second vice president; and Mike Gray, pastor of Southeast Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, recording secretary.

The 1987 annual convention will be Nov. 10-11 at Calvary Baptist Church in Boise, Idaho.

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Michigan Baptists Continue Percentage Increases To CP

MARQUETTE, Mich. (BP)—Michigan Baptists maintained the pace of their increasing support of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program and elected top officers who reflect the country's ethnic and racial diversity during their 29th annual meeting Nov. 10-12 at Harvey Baptist Church in Marquette.

Messengers to the meeting approved a new budget of \$2,512,227, with \$275,124, or 28 percent, of that total designated to the SBC Cooperative Program, the national convention's unified budget that supports mission, evangelistic and educational endeavors worldwide.

Their action marked the 16th consecutive year Michigan Baptists have increase the Cooperative Program's portion of their budget by one-half percent. Michigan churches are expected to contribute \$982,588 to their overall state budget, with most of the rest coming from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Rochelle Davis, pastor of Temple of Faith Baptist Church, a black congregation in Detroit, was re-elected to a second one-year term as convention president without opposition. Damon Patterson, pastor of Monroe Missionary Baptist Church in Monroe, was re-elected first vice president without opposition. Isaias Hernandez, pastor of First Spanish American Baptist Church in Pontiac, was elected second vice president.

Hernandez's election marked the first time an ethnic person had been elected to one of the convention's top posts, said Robert Wilson, executive director of the convention. He noted the officers represent the "three largest population groups in our country"—black, Anglo and Hispanic.

The convention celebrated the sixth anniversary of its partnership with Tennessee Baptists. Ironically, both conventions met simultaneously in the same cities where they met when each convention approved the arrangement—Michigan in Marquette and Tennessee in Johnson City.

The meeting in Marquette, which is 450 miles north of Detroit, marked only the third time in 29 years the convention has met in the state's Upper Peninsula. The meeting was attended by 264 messengers.

Those messengers approved a 1987 emphasis on planting and growing churches. They adopted a goal of 387 churches, missions and Bible studies moving toward mission status by the end of 1987. Currently the convention has 227 churches, 39 missions and 39 Bible studies.

The 1987 convention will be held Nov. 10-12 at Westside Baptist Church in Flint.

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Hawaii Baptists Celebrate Growth

Baptist Press
11/20/86

KIHEI, Hawaii (BP)—Hawaii Baptists celebrated their growth during the 44th annual meeting of the Hawaii Baptist Convention Nov. 6-8 at Kahului Baptist Church in Kihei on the island of Maui.

For the first time in its history, the convention's 1986 budget is expected to receive more than \$500,000 from Hawaii Baptist churches, noted Executive Director Dan Kong.

Kong also reported growth statistics for this decade: The convention had 39 constituted churches in 1980, compared to 48 in 1986. It had 59 congregations of all types, compared to 79 today. And in the past year, the convention fell just one person short of its baptism goal of 758.

Messengers to the annual meeting approved a convention budget of \$1,650,672, of which \$563,562 is expected to come from Hawaii churches. The remainder primarily will come from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

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The budget will include a 27.5 percent allocation to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified national budget that supports mission, evangelistic and educational endeavors worldwide. That allocation to the Cooperative Program is a one-half percent increase over 1986.

Newly elected president of the convention is Cliff Hoff of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu. Other officers are Ken Newman, pastor of Hawaii Kai Baptist Church in Honolulu, first vice president; Donna Farr, member of Kailua Baptist Church in Kailua, second vice president; and Susan Rowe, Central Baptist Church in Honolulu, recording secretary.

Messengers approved resolutions decrying pornography, lottery and gambling and commending President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese for the report of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography.

The next convention meeting will be Nov. 5-7, 1987, at Hawaii Baptist Academy in Honolulu.

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New Mexico Baptists
Meet At Glorieta

Baptist Press
11/20/86

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—In a characteristically peaceful convention, New Mexico Baptists adopted a \$2.4 million budget, heard reports and elected officers. The convention was held at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Nov. 11-13.

The budget of \$2.4 million will be divided between state and Southern Baptist Convention causes on a 70/30 percent ratio, the same as in 1986.

The convention also authorized Executive Director Claude Cone to begin a \$2 million endowment fund for financially troubled New Mexico Baptist Children's Home at Portales. Because of gas and oil depletion revenues, the children's home currently is facing a financial shortfall for the year of about \$25,000.

Cone told messengers that according to a study done by the SBC Stewardship Commission discloses \$2 million in endowment is about the maximum amount New Mexico Baptists could expect to raise. Originally, the convention had hoped to raise up to \$7 million in endowment for various state ministries. Cone also said the Stewardship Commission told him he would have to raise the \$1 million of the endowment through contacts with Baptists in the state.

In other convention business, resolutions were adopted expressing prayerful concern for the SBC Peace Committee and SBC President Adrian Rogers, affirmed the "Planned Growth in Giving" stewardship emphasis, expressed prayerful concern for newly elected Gov. Garrey Carruthers, and opposed the establishment of a state lottery in New Mexico. C. Eugene Whitlow, editor of the Baptist New Mexican, the official newsjournal of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, from 1967 to 1981, was named editor emeritus. Whitlow, who with his wife, Gretchen, is retired and living in Las Cruces, served as editor of the state paper longer than any of his predecessors.

Messengers also changed the bylaws of the New Mexico Baptist Children's Home, bringing it under the executive board. For several years, the home has operated with a separate board of directors. Under the bylaw changes, a 7-person "special ministries committee" will operate the home on behalf of the executive board.

New Mexico Baptists will observe their 75th anniversary in 1987. The convention will be held at First Baptist Church of Hobbs, Nov. 3-5. State Executive Director Emeritus Harry P. Stagg, executive director of the convention from 1938 to 1968, will preach the annual sermon.

Four hundred and fifty-nine messengers and 320 visitors were registered. Ed Meyers, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roswell, was elected convention president. King Sanders, pastor of Rodeo Road Baptist Church of Santa Fe, was elected first vice president. L.W. Byous, retired superintendent of schools at Clovis, was elected second vice president.

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Trust Lord, Tell People,
Wood Tells Oklahomans

By Leanne Lewis

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--Baptists have the right to know their problems as well as their privileges, Presnall H. Wood, told Oklahoma Baptist University faculty and students during the university's 13th Hobbs Lecture Nov. 19.

Wood, editor of the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newsjournal, spoke on "The Right to Know--The Baptist Way."

He said Baptists must use the axiom, "Trust the Lord and tell the people," coined by former OBU president and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board leader J.B. Lawrence. The term must be used on all levels of Southern Baptist life, from the local church to the national convention, he insisted.

"Baptists must never get tired of knowing," Wood said. "Once Baptists know, they have a stewardship of taking what they know and utilizing it for the betterment of the kingdom of God and Baptist life."

However, the right to know is an endangered concept in Baptist life, he said, noting, "Practicing what Baptists preach in regard to letting Baptists know is sometimes difficult."

Wood cited examples of a search committee withholding information about a prospective staff member from the church and the recent increase in the number of executive sessions called by trustees of Southern Baptist institutions and agencies. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has had three executive sessions of trustee meetings in the last two years, and the Home Mission Board went into executive session in August, Wood said.

When the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee was elected in 1985, part of the recommendation stated that the committee could hold public hearings or could hold executive sessions to accomplish its goals. But after nine meetings in a little more than one year "the Peace Committee has not opened its doors to the Baptist public," Wood said. Instead, only one member of the press corps, Baptist Press News Editor Dan Martin, is allowed to sit in on the meetings.

"Closing Baptist doors and having executive sessions is something new on the Baptist scene," Wood said. "That Baptists don't have the right to know is new thinking in Baptist life."

In light of the emerging trend of closed doors when Baptists should be informed, he made several admonitions.

"All Baptists have the right and need to know. It is a fatal assumption to believe in Baptist life that everyone knows," he said. "Letting Baptists know involves the right to question those in the know. Responsible leadership should give people what they need and not just what they want."

He said executive sessions in Baptist life should be the rare exception rather than the rule, and editorial freedom should be allowed to probe and challenge all areas of Baptist life.

"A part of Baptist heritage is trusting the Lord and telling the people. It is under constant assault. Yes, it is sometimes a struggle to maintain, but the struggle is worth it. Baptists have the right to know. It is the Baptist way," he stressed.

Wood said the right to know is based on the competency of man's soul to have a direct relationship with God and to be accountable to him. The right to know is also at the heart of the way Baptists are organized because of the autonomy of the church under the lordship of Christ.

Also, the concept of "Trust the Lord and tell the people" is evidenced throughout Baptist history with its policy of openness. However, he said, openness often breeds controversy that, if not treated properly, will lead to a large number of unhappy Baptists.

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The right to know also undergirds the concept for a free Baptist press. Based on the scripture Jeremiah 50:2, the ideal in Baptist communications is to declare, to publish and not to conceal, he said.

The Herschel H. and Frances J. Hobbs Lectureship in Baptist Faith and Heritage is OBU's first endowed lectureship and is named in honor of Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, and his late wife. The program sponsors a series of lectures at OBU dealing with Baptist theology, Baptist history, studies of the Bible and other related themes.

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Spanish Church Planter
Yearns For Co-workers

By Linda A. Fisher

Baptist Press
11/20/86

BILBAO, Spain (BP)—If churches were as easy to plant as trees, Julio Diaz might have produced a forest.

"There is a family in Guernica, a solid Baptist family," the Spanish Baptist Union home missionary says. "If we just had someone to go there and start a church.

"And in Orduna, I have 150 prospect cards," names generated by the union's Bible correspondence course. "I can't begin to reach them myself," Diaz says, "but I am trying to keep the door open for future contacts by sending Christmas cards to each of them every year."

Diaz, however, has been investing his life in the towns of Bilbao and Bermeo, in the Basque region along Spain's northern coast. It's an area where the Basque separatist group ETA has made news with terrorist activities.

Diaz and the mission at Bilbao have witnessed not a terrorist explosion but an evangelistic one. They've baptized a record 10 new believers so far this year. Diaz has been the mission's pastor since 1976, when average attendance there was only 11 people.

The home missionary began work in nearby Bermeo after an interview on a radio station serving the region. An evangelical husband and wife who were moving from the small fishing village telephoned Diaz to ask him to maintain contact with a teen-age girl they had befriended. Diaz's visits led to a home Bible study, and the girl's sister and brother later accepted Christ as their personal savior.

Another contact in Bermeo was with a paraplegic who signed up for the convention's Bible correspondence course after his aunt, a Catholic nun, gave him an enrollment card. Diaz added the boy's family to his weekly visitation rounds, and the lad and his sister responded with decisions for Christ. When the paraplegic died, Diaz conducted the area's first evangelical funeral.

Diaz began Saturday worship services in a small storefront in May 1983. After the building was destroyed by a flood, the mission moved to the local community center. Attendance now stands at 30 to 40 adults, and 15 are enrolled in midweek Bible study. A number of them travel to the Baptist mission in Bilbao for Sunday worship, carrying sack lunches so they can stay for the evening service.

Diaz's work extends still further. To many young adults in his congregations, he provides counsel as they or their peers deal with staggering unemployment in the region, political unrest and drug abuse. Diaz is president of the region's Baptist association, and he makes a two-hour bus trip once a month to preach at a church which hasn't had a pastor for two years.

He also has been responsive to employees of several American firms with operations in Bilbao who want English-language worship services. Twice a month such services are held at the mission. "Many churches in the United States offer their facilities to the Spanish-speaking in their communities," Diaz notes. "Here we have the opportunity to return that favor."

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Fisher is a Southern Baptist missionary in Spain.

Venezuelan Baptists Serious
About Hundredfold Increase

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
11/20/86

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A hundredfold increase in Baptist strength in Venezuela "is not a hard challenge," the president of that country's National Baptist Convention insisted.

Paul Eustache said Venezuelan Baptists "across the board" are committed to reaching 1 million members by the year 2000. They currently number 10,000.

Eustache, a layman from Caracas, has served five one-year terms as convention president since 1975. He is an official in the Venezuelan oil company, Corpoven. During a mid-November visit to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., he spoke unflinchingly of Venezuelan Baptists' million-member goal.

The bold objective emerged during long-range planning in 1979, Eustache recounted. Previous growth rates, Baptist leaders noted, would yield 50,000 members by 2000, while Venezuela's population will increase to 22 million.

The vision was sparked, Eustache said, by one participant's comments: "If we have only 50,000 members in our churches, we will not have any influence over the country. We need at least 1 million people."

It soon became "a generally accepted goal," untarnished by debates over its zealotry, Eustache said.

Meeting the goal, he noted, "all depends on what we do now" in establishing a plan for growth. Convention leaders have been making sure every program is centered on the concept of outreach, he said.

Eustache listed four components of growth for the convention: its three-year partnership with Tennessee Baptists, an expanding number of home missionaries, campaigns known as "evangelistic marches" in various locales, and a church planting and discipleship program for couples from other Latin American countries.

More than 150 Tennessee Baptists have assisted 40 Caracas-area churches and missions in evangelistic campaigns this year. Four hundred Tennessee volunteers are being enlisted for campaigns next year in 130 Venezuelan congregations throughout the country.

"Not only have Venezuelans received blessings," Eustache said, "but the persons from Tennessee have received blessings. I occasionally meet someone from Tennessee, and I'm asked, 'What in the world happened to John Doe? He went to Venezuela and he came back a changed person.'"

Venezuelan Baptists plan to send a number of teams to Tennessee in 1988 to witness in primarily Hispanic neighborhoods, Eustache added.

In home missions, the convention provides full support to several church planting couples and about 70 percent support to two dozen missionaries. It also coordinates the work of 150 volunteers, mostly young adults committed to one- to two-year terms.

The convention supports two foreign missionary couples, one on the nearby island of Curacao and the other in Bolivia.

"We do some things in constant promotion (of missions)," Eustache said, "through camps and our convention meetings. We always underscore the call of God and the responsibility of responding."

Evangelistic marches, over a year's time, involve about 1,000 Venezuelan pastors and lay people. Marches were the essence of the program when it began nearly 10 years ago, but now it includes training sessions for volunteers, witnessing in each target community's commercial district or along its streets, door-to-door visitation and follow-up of converts.

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MODIBLA, or Discipleship Movement of Latin America, is a new program for developing church planters from other countries and giving Venezuelans experience as foreign missionaries. The convention matches a couple from another country with a Venezuelan church planting couple for a two-year period. When the visiting couple returns home to start a church, the Venezuelan couple goes with them for a two-year period. Three couples, from Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama, are the first participants.

Even with all their programs, if Venezuelan Baptists' numbers fall short at the year 2000, Eustache won't fret. "I would not be terribly disappointed," he allowed, "if we didn't reach the 1 million until 2005."

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Church-Planting Kenyan
Lives Out His Priorities

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
11/20/86

MWIMUTO, Kenya (BP)—"Just one minute was like an hour" to Samueli Kihuga when he first read aloud from a Swahili Bible during a worship service.

"In about three months, I could preach 10 minutes."

Today, 16 years after becoming a Christian, Kihuga is a Baptist pastor with solid experience in church planting, door-to-door visitation and theological education for lay people.

In unpretentious fashion, the 44-year-old pastor lives in the village of Mwimuto, just north of Nairobi. The two-room apartment he shares with his wife, Joyce, and their two sons and two daughters, ages 7 to 13, is in a neighborhood of several rows of wood-frame structures.

His simple lifestyle is consistent with a pastoral philosophy rooted in several priorities.

He isn't satisfied with a church's progress until it can "preach the gospel in another area," starting a new church or helping one in a state of decline.

Mwimuto Baptist Church, the Swahili-language congregation he has led the past four years, must help others "as we have been helped," Kihuga insists. Thus the church has started a mission in the village of Kangemi, just northwest of Nairobi.

Kihuga has worked with Southern Baptist missionaries to start eight congregations, the first just four months after his conversion. All but two remain active.

He isn't the founding pastor of the congregation at Mwimuto. But he came to the mission when only seven members gathered in one room. Now the church has 100 members and meets in a nursery school.

Door-to-door visitation, two or three days a week, is a cornerstone of Kihuga's efforts to build churches.

In neighborhoods where he has become a familiar face, he notes, "They miss me when I don't come. They say, 'Where is the pastor?' They know I like this work.

"In the congregation, it is hard for you to tell me your personal problems," he says. "But if I come to talk about Christ, you can tell me your problems and we can solve them."

Kihuga often knocks on the doors of church members and they, too, confide in him: "I am frank with them. They know that I love them. That is the reason they are open to me."

He wants his contact with church members to spark an interest in classes for lay people on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. He's looking for the leaders—the ones capable of teaching or preaching.

New and Old Testament, specific books of the Bible, evangelism, prayer and Baptist beliefs are among the classes he has organized. At present, about 10 church members are involved.

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Kihuga also has launched a low-key stewardship emphasis at Mwimuto, meeting with small groups after each Sunday morning service. "What I am teaching is to give liberally. It is the work of every member ... to make the church stand," he says.

But in true Baptist form, "I want them to talk about their own views concerning this." Giving must be "freehearted. ... We don't want people to give what they don't want to give or are unable to give." At the end of each session, members have an opportunity to make stewardship commitments.

Much of the energy he needs for his active ministry comes from "a quiet time in the morning, reading the Bible, praying, thinking about the greatness and the love of Jesus Christ."

"I pray," Kihuga adds, "that God will help me to be a good picture before my people."

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Discipleship Ministers
Organize Association

By Terry Barone

Baptist Press
11/20/86

DALLAS (BP)—A group of 50 ministers whose primary responsibility in their churches is discipleship ministries recently formed the Association of Ministers and Coordinators of Discipleship (AMCD).

Gathered at a discipleship institute at First Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, those attending a workshop of discipleship coordinators formed the association to assist Southern Baptists churches in beginning or strengthening discipleship ministries.

John Kramp, associate pastor for discipleship ministries at First Church of Garland, said the gathering was the "first of its kind. We don't know of another place where a group of discipleship ministers has met."

The meeting took place during the Institute for Christian Discipleship sponsored by First Church of Garland, Dallas Baptist Association, the Texas Baptist church training department and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The week featured discipleship program classes during the day and motivational inspirational rallies each evening. Discipleship programs offered included MasterLife, MasterBuilder, DiscipleYouth I and II, and "How to Put LIFE Into Your Church." The workshop for coordinators also was conducted. When the workshop was placed on the agenda as one of six offered during the institute, Kramp said he expected 10 or 15 people to respond. "I never really dreamed 50 would attend," he noted.

A variety of people attended the coordinators' conference, ranging from pastors to ministers of discipleship. Many participants also had responsibilities in their churches other than discipleship.

The goals of the discipleship coordinators' organization are to:

- Develop a fellowship of ministers and coordinators of discipleship who will meet for encouragement and training.
- Act as a liaison for churches and individuals seeking staff positions in discipleship ministry.
- Serve as a resource for Baptist colleges, universities and seminaries as they train students in discipleship ministry.
- Provide research and development services for Southern Baptists in discipleship materials and methods.
- Offer leadership personnel for discipleship emphases sponsored by churches, associations, state and Southern Baptist boards and agencies.

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Officers are Larry Roberts, minister of evangelism/discipleship, First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn., president; Kramp, vice president; and Edward Thiele, associate professor of discipleship, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, secretary-treasurer.

Area representatives also were elected. They are Steve McFarland, minister of music/discipleship, First Baptist Church of Winter Garden, Fla., East Coast representative; Trevi Dean, professor of discipleship, California Baptist College in Riverside, Calif., West Coast representative; and Bob Felts, associate pastor, Southcliff Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, Central representative.

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Southern Baptist Named
To Head NABF Committee

Baptist Press
11/20/86

WASHINGTON (BP)—Russell Griffin, director of the children and youth department of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has been elected chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship Youth Committee.

The North American Baptist Fellowship, made up of eight Baptist conventions in the United States and Canada, is one of six regional organizations of the Baptist World Alliance.

Griffin, 39, of Memphis, Tenn., succeeds Charles Beckett of Richmond, Va., who has been acting chairman since July.

The youth committee, which met at the international Baptist World Alliance headquarters in McLean, Va., also chose Cassandra Jones of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., as first vice chairman and Beth Loughead of American Baptist Churches as second vice chairman. Don Simmonds of the Baptist Federation of Canada was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Griffin is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, Jan, are the parents of two children.

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