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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
Mary 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, 3906 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

December 15, 1986

86-186

Gifts To Home Missions
Up Over Previous Year

By Joe Westbury

N-HMB

ATLANTA (BP)—Gifts to Southern Baptist home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are running 3.45 percent ahead of last year and are expected to reach \$28 million by year's end, executive committee members of the denomination's Home Mission Board have been told.

Robert T. Banks, acting president of the agency, told board members that \$27,605,757, or 82.41 percent of the goal, has been received and reflects an increase of \$921,575 over the same period a year ago.

In other business during its December meeting, the board promoted three staff members and elected two new employees.

David Bunch, director of the board's mission service corps since 1978, was named director of the church extension division. Bunch succeeds Jack Redford who retired earlier in the year to become director of missions for the Baptist association in Cisco, Texas.

Gary Jones, director of counseling services, was elevated to director of the board's personnel division. Jones succeeds Margrette Stevenson, who was promoted to associate vice president of the services section.

Nona Junkin, who has worked in the personnel division for the past year as part of a major study of staff salaries, has been promoted to director of employment services. She succeeds Loretta Hayes, who resigned to accompany her husband to a new pastorate in Lexington, Ky.

New employees included William Barner, missionary associate for the Greater Columbus Baptist Association in Ohio, who was employed as regional associate director for the church loans division; and William Thaddeus Hamilton, vocational evangelist in Asheville, N.C., who was named associate director in the mass evangelism department.

The board also appointed 19 missionaries, eight missionary associates and nine church planter apprentices. It approved 34 mission pastors, three mission pastor interns and three language pastors.

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Missionary Murders In Liberia Do Not
Deter Georgia Baptist Ministry There

N-CO

Baptist Press
12/15/86

ATLANTA (BP)—The murders of a Southern Baptist missionary and her 10-year-old daughter in Liberia have not deterred the partnership mission project between Georgia Baptists and the West African nation, reported Eugene Dailey, project coordinator.

Dailey was acquainted personally with George and Libby Senter through his leadership in the partnership project between the Georgia Baptist Convention and Baptists in Liberia. "George (Senter) was mission chairman when we began the project," Dailey said. Following the brutal murder of Libby Senter and the couple's daughter, Rachel, volunteer participation in future projects that have been planned in Liberia was in question.

"If anything, we have seen a deepened commitment to the ministry," Dailey said. He noted five major projects are planned for 1987, in addition to a number of special ministry projects by individuals.

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The five areas of specific interest which will involve more than 200 Georgia volunteers are:

- Literacy: Seven people will go for literacy training for Liberians.
- Well-drilling: Twenty people are scheduled to leave Jan. 7 for this project.
- Building of 12 churches: A total of 84 volunteers will go during the next year, working in teams of seven persons in each group, to work alongside nationals in the construction projects.
- Medical assistance: About 75 medical personnel will go from across the state in short-term medical service.
- Evangelism crusades: Scheduled for Nov. 11-28, 30 preachers and 30 musicians will take part in the national effort in 1987.

Dailey echoed the sentiments of Georgia Baptist Convention Executive Director-Treasurer James N. Griffith: "The fact that there is a tragedy does not change our reason for going to Liberia in the first place. The need is still there, and the commitment on our part is still there."

Dailey said the reason for the partnership project is "to minister to persons who have needs—and who are lost. The Senter murders are not part of a conspiracy; this is an isolated incident which only serves to focus on the deep needs of the people of Liberia."

The Georgia Baptist Convention-Liberia Partnership Mission began in 1984. Since that time, more than 300 Georgians have gone on a volunteer basis as a part of the ministry.

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Texas Japanese Mission
'Testimony To Cooperation'

By Ken Camp

N-Texas

Baptist Press
12/15/86

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The first Japanese Baptist house of worship built in Texas stands as a testimony to cooperation, according to the mission's pastor.

The Japanese Mission of Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth, dedicated its new church building Nov. 16. Because of the efforts of Texas Baptist volunteer builders, the free labor of mission members and the work of other concerned individuals, the mission was able to construct a building worth more than \$70,000 for approximately \$27,000.

About 100 volunteer builders worked for more than five months on the project. The 2,100-square foot building is located on property donated by—and adjacent to—the sponsoring church.

"It was a tremendous show of support and demonstration of faith on the part of the people who volunteered their time to work on the building," said Bill Walker, mission pastor. "It showed they have faith in God's work here."

The Japanese Mission of Gambrell Street Baptist Church was begun about 10 years ago, and the congregation met in the church facilities prior to construction of their new building.

Texas Baptists statewide participated in providing the new building through their support of the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions. The mission received a matching grant in June for its building program and a start-up gift in October, both funded by the state missions offering.

Walker, a 1985 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, was reared in Japan where his parents are missionaries. The bivocational pastor hopes to serve eventually on the foreign mission field, preferably in Japan.

Currently, the mission averages about 20 in Sunday school and worship. Walker hopes to see the mission grow into a self-supporting church of at least 100.

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"With the high tech industries coming into our area, the Japanese population could triple in Fort Worth in the next few years," he said. "In the next ten years, the population should easily support a congregation of up to 100."

Now that the mission has its own facilities, Walker hopes to begin flower arranging, tea ceremony and language classes, as well as other community projects suited to the Japanese culture as a means of drawing people to the mission.

At the present time, the Japanese Mission of Gambrell Street Baptist Church is the only Japanese congregation of any denomination in Fort Worth. Nearly 100 percent of the mission's growth has come from evangelism rather than transfer of membership.

"Most of the families who have come to be with us are coming to church for the first time," said Walker. "We're reaching people who are casually familiar with Christianity, but few who have heard a clear presentation of the gospel."

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Expectations Pressure
Ministers' Wives

By Jim Lowry

F-BSSB

Baptist Press
12/15/86

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—A pastor who takes for granted his wife's role as first lady of the church might be overlooking problems that could jeopardize his ministry and marriage.

And a church that calls a pastor on the assumption that, with his wife, they are getting two for the price of one, is setting up a situation where there is great potential for misunderstanding.

Cathy Hickem, author, and wife of Neil Hickem, a Southern Baptist pastor for nine years, conducted research of pastor-husbands and their wives that is included in her new book, "The Minister's Mate—Two for the Price of One," published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Self-imposed expectations, which include guilt, also play a large part in the problem, along with differing perceptions between the minister and mate and unrealistic expectations from church members, Hickem explains.

"Research confirmed great concern over the role of the minister's wife," Hickem says. "A lot depends on the congregation, but it's difficult because church members often are not aware of the sacrifices being made when they make judgments only on what they see.

"It is a staggering confession that 54.4 percent of the wives surveyed believe their husband's first priority is the church," she continues. "And 36 percent of the pastors agreed."

When asked if the pastorate is a two-person job, 63 percent of the women said yes, compared with 44 percent of the men.

More than 78 percent of the men and 75 percent of the women agreed that active participation by the wife in church activities was necessary for a pastor to be considered, or perceived, successful. Similarly, 60 percent of the women and 73 percent of the men acknowledged that wives attend some activities just because it is expected.

"A minister cannot look at his wife as an employee," Hickem says. And the wife "has got to ask, 'What are my priorities? Or am I only doing this activity because it will look better if I do?'"

"I think there is a lot of resentment by wives because there is too little appreciation expressed by their husbands and by church members," she notes. "It is not a shared ministry when the wife is doing all the giving to family and church and nobody is giving back in return.

"There is a variety of reasons for conflict, but the first may be the joint call, where a church is hiring a team. Even though the wife doesn't preach, she must be committed, faithful and say all the right things. No church member would consider demanding the same qualifications of the wife of their doctor or lawyer.

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"Churches which hire ministers with the idea of two for the price of one are creating the false expectation that they can place equal demands on the wife and the pastor," she says.

"I believe wives must be supportive of their pastor-husbands, but in ways they choose and agree upon, not just because others expect it of them," she adds. "The roles of Christian, wife and mother must be balanced. It may be more important to attend an activity at school for one of the children than the association meeting."

Also, the lack of privacy and being available 24 hours a day causes problems, she says. "Church members should give the same respect they want themselves, such as calling before visiting the minister's home."

The telephone can be a constant source of interruption, according to Hickem, who suggests calls not be made to the pastor's home after 10 p.m. unless it is important. She adds it would be beneficial to the minister's family for as many calls as possible to be handled with the pastor during office hours.

Education and role modeling are two of the most important things a minister can provide for his church, Hickem says. He can place an emphasis on the family from the pulpit and provide regularly scheduled time for his family.

At North Main Street Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., where Neil Hickem was pastor for five years, he held Friday nights for the family. He announced it to the church early in his ministry there, and according to Cathy Hickem, church members faithfully honored the request. The Hickems recently moved to Delray Beach, Fla., where Neil has become pastor of First Baptist Church.

Also, a pastor shouldn't speak for his wife or commit her for responsibilities, Cathy Hickem says. When a pastor's wife sets her priorities, she has the right to decide what she will do, not because it is a leftover job from the nominating committee, but because it is something she will enjoy or a ministry to which she feels called.

She cites a recent survey which placed clergy divorces as the third-highest among professional people.

"This shows that husbands are out of touch with their wives when they assume she will always be there," Hickem warns. "That is not a safe assumption any more."

"We can't be all things to all people," Hickem explains. "When we accept that reality, we will be much healthier, happier people."

"If the minister can care for the emotional as well as physical and spiritual needs of his family, then his impact will be greater. As a leader in the church, I can think of no better way to lead a congregation than through example."

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

Musician Resigns Job
To Meet Missions Needs

By Charles Willis

F-BSSB

Baptist Press
12/15/86

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP)—"I needed the time to give to God," Sandra Bench says in explaining her resignation from her teaching job.

To Bench, volunteer state music secretary for the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship, the matter was just that simple.

Of course, she and her husband, Dan, have children in college. And for the five years she taught music in elementary and secondary schools, the family became dependent on her income.

But as volunteer leader for the Southern Baptist music program in Iowa, Bench knew she couldn't teach school full-time and also prepare for the 1987 Musicians on Mission workshop in Des Moines. When she received the school contract to sign for the 1986-87 school year, she returned it unsigned.

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"I was about to tell Dan I thought I ought to quit teaching," she says, "when he came to me and said, 'Why don't you just quit school?'"

Not long afterward, her husband, an insurance company executive, came home from work in an unusually happy mood. "I got a promotion today," he told her. The increase in his pay more than replaced her teaching salary.

Months later, Bench still is emotional when she tells the story.

The Musicians on Mission workshop, scheduled for Oct. 1-3, 1987, is a miracle in itself, she says. Of the 70 missions and churches statewide, only two have paid music leaders, and volunteer music leaders generally cannot leave work to attend training sessions.

The churches are not strong enough to pay multiple staff persons or to pay the state staff, she observes, and now offerings are down because of the difficulties of the farm economy. Bench is equally concerned because economics have dictated that Iowa natives who earn seminary music degrees cannot afford to return to work in Iowa.

Having an event jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department means the Musicians on Mission program will include instrumental and vocal training sessions that some persons would not otherwise have a chance to attend, she says.

Bench anticipates the week-long work in the state by volunteers from other areas will result in instruments being tuned, congregational song leaders being trained and accompanists receiving one-on-one assistance.

"I'd like to see growth among the people through visiting with fellow Christians," she says. "The ones who receive the help will get not only musical help, but also encouragement. And the helpers will have an eye-opening experience."

Bench's expectations were supported as attainable when state music leaders were told during their annual December planning meeting in Nashville, Tenn., that more than 250 volunteers from 21 states worked in 177 churches during the first year of three Musicians on Mission workshops.

The work assignments from the Iowa workshop will extend to parts of neighboring Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota and the Dakotas, and Bench already has a list of volunteers who will work. In fact, more than 50 persons attending music leadership conferences last summer at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers signed up to attend the Des Moines workshop and do volunteer work.

Bench will not say that there is a limit to the number of workshop participants and volunteers needed. As one who has experienced God's plan for her role in music missions, Bench asserts, "God knows who needs to be in those places."

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

Baptist Agency Pioneer
Views Role Of Education

By Lonnie Wilkey

F - Ed. Com.
Baptist Press
12/15/86

ATLANTA (BP)—A Southern Baptist educational pioneer insisted the most important role of Baptist colleges is strengthening the commitment of students who are already Christians.

R. Orin Cornett, who became the first executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission in 1951, addressed nearly 100 educators during the mid-year meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools in Atlanta, Dec. 8.

Cornett acknowledged Baptist schools can shape the values of some students, but he observed many young people enter college already embodied with Christian ideals and values.

The college interval is the time when the values students have either crystalize into a strong permanent pattern of life commitment or are submerged under the frenetic barrage of worldly concerns and activities, he said.

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Baptist schools, Cornett observed, furnish "a special set of circumstances in which something very important and wonderful can happen to Christian young people."

Cornett related he had some curiosities to explore when he entered Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee: "I wanted to take a very real vacation from church to see if I actually missed it. And I don't think I was very far from typical."

Cornett noted students can find on most Christian college campuses "practically all the kinds of meanness you can find at any college—gambling, liquor, drugs, sex—though not necessarily to the same degree of availability as in other institutions."

The important factor on the Christian college campus, however, is how those things are perceived by a majority of the students, Cornett contended.

"In a good Christian college, the undesirable elements exist on the outer periphery of student life disapproved of by the majority of students and have very little effect on them," he said.

He noted that after one year he had not satisfied all the curiosities he had, but instead those curiosities "lost importance."

Cornett noted young people like to "go along with the group." From his experience what the group did was influenced most by upperclassmen. The students who were most desired were those who wanted to do something worthwhile with their lives in service to God and man, he said.

"The key to the influence of the Christian college is its majority of Christian students who are responsive to the influence of the special climate it offers and are capable to contributing to that climate as they progress to later college years," he said.

Cornett observed the college years are crucial for setting a direction for life and reaching a commitment to service: "This is the magic of the Christian college. It is aided and abetted by dedicated faculty and administrators who are able to manage things in the face of many problems.

"The miracle is that the uncertain, indecisive, easily influenced freshman becomes in turn the committed upperclassman who helps provide the momentum and sense of direction needed by incoming students."

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Pastor Battles Cancer,
Continues Serving God

By Orville Scott

F - Texas
Baptist Press
12/15/86

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Cancer has spread throughout his body, but Enrique Cepeda's main desire is to continue preaching God's Word.

He prays God will enable him to fulfill an invitation to give his testimony at the Hispanic Evangelism Conference at Cliff Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, Jan. 12, just prior to the beginning of the annual Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference at Reunion Arena in Dallas.

Despite the malignancy and the monthly chemotherapy treatments that sap his strength, the 52-year-old former pastor of La Loma Baptist Mission in Fort Worth, Texas, has maintained his humor, wit and zeal for the ministry.

"I know the Lord has power to heal my body," Cepeda says, "but the thing I ask more in prayer is that he'll sustain me as I preach his word until he has need to call me to his presence."

As Christmas approaches, Cepeda and his family have scant material goods, but they thank God for more important things. "Right now I don't even know how I'm going to pay the rent this month," he says, "but what helps me is the promise of my Lord, 'Worry for nothing!' I rest upon his promise."

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The family's only income is from his wife's job altering clothing in a Fort Worth department store. They aren't even financially able to maintain the diet requirements of his illness.

In his testimony at the Hispanic Evangelism Conference, Cepeda wants to urge laypeople to go home and examine their pastor's retirement and disability benefits.

"Workers who open new missions fields many times have to look for secular jobs just to support their families," he says. "In Mission Texas, as we begin 2,000 new churches, it will be necessary to provide for the needs of the 2,000 pastors and other workers in these fields."

Cepeda was rejected for Social Security disability benefits because he fell two quarters short of the requirements, but officials are reconsidering the matter. Cepeda says he and his family appreciate the financial aid that came from churches and friends when his illness was first announced, but with time, many people have forgotten.

He says he is a product of foreign, home and state missions.

He came to Christ in Ecuador in 1959 through the ministry of missionary Howard Shoemake and the prayers of his sweetheart, Mercedes, who became his wife. He came to New York City in 1963 when Southern Baptist work among Hispanics there was just beginning and helped begin new work under coordination of Leobardo Estrada who, later became ethnic missions coordinator for Texas Baptists.

In 1967 he felt God calling him to prepare for the ministry at Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. He was pastor of Calvario Baptist Church there before returning to New York in 1972, where he served with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, helping begin four missions in Harlem.

From 1976-82, Cepeda was pastor of a mission which later organized into Woodside Baptist Church in New York City. Returning to Texas in 1982, he helped begin Primera Iglesia Bautista sponsored by First Baptist Church of Henderson.

In 1985, he became pastor of La Loma Church in Fort Worth, where he was until last April when surgeons removed one of his kidneys and a massive tumor. The cancer has spread to other parts of his body, including his lungs.

When five doctors told him he was totally disabled, Cepeda said he felt within him a hope and a voice that said, "I have not forsaken thee."

"He (God) responded in my hurt and pain, for as the pain intensified, I felt the Lord within me, soothing my pain," Cepeda said.

"I want to glorify the name of my God, because it's been approximately five weeks since I left the hospital this time, and my body has not felt any great pain," said Cepeda. "Therefore, I firmly believe that this is the answer of my Lord to all the prayers for me by the people of God to whom I give thanks with all my heart."

He thanks God for his wife and children who have sacrificed to be at his side through his ordeal. Sons Angel and Carlos live in New York, but they "call constantly." Three children live with the Cepedas in Fort Worth: Noemi, a student at Texas Christian University; Roberto, a student at University of Texas at Arlington; and David, a fifth grader.

Looking to the future, which includes more chemotherapy treatments, Cepeda says, "I'm praying for the Lord to provide opportunities for me to serve him. I'm not content just doing nothing." Even though Cepeda has been declared disabled, he has managed to continue witnessing for God.

A plaque inside the front door of the Cepeda home seems to speak of the faith of those who live there. It reads: "I do not know what ills may come along life's road today. I only know I shall not mind because Christ leads the way."

Texas Hospitality House
Receives Mabee Grant

By Ken Camp

N-Texas

DALLAS (BP)—The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, Inc., of Tulsa, Okla., awarded a \$50,000 matching grant to the Texas Baptist Prisoner Family Ministry Foundation to help fund the Hospitality House in Huntsville, Texas.

Both the land and building for the Hospitality House now are paid for completely, said W.J. Isbell, director, Baptist Men, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Sponsored by the State Missions Commission of the BGCT, Texas Baptist Men and Tryon-Evergreen Baptist Association, the Hospitality House is designed as a temporary home for the visiting families of inmates in Huntsville-area state prisons.

The Mabee Foundation is a philanthropic organization that assists religious, educational and charitable organizations in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico and Arkansas with construction and renovation projects. Grants are made on a challenge basis in order to provide incentive for enlisting the support of other donors.

"The general philosophy has been to help those who also help themselves," said Donald P. Moyers, vice-chairman of the Mabee Foundation.

The Texas Baptist Prisoner Family Ministry Foundation earlier had received \$50,000 from the Meadows Foundation of Dallas, \$15,000 from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, about \$5,800 from Tryon-Evergreen Baptist Association, \$35,000 from Texas Baptists through their contributions to the Mary Hill Davis Centennial Offering for State Missions, and more than \$104,000 in individual gifts raised by Texas Baptist Men.

The 7,000-square-foot Hospitality House was erected by volunteer builders May 23-24 on land purchased by the BGCT and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Finishing work was done in the weeks that followed, and the house opened Aug. 8. The house has hosted more than 150 families in its first four months, and 17 persons have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ as a result of the Hospitality House ministry.

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No Obstacle Too Hard For God
Missionary Explains To Students

By Nancy Barcus

F-CO
Baptist Press
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WACO, Texas (BP)—"No obstacle is too hard for God" is the time-tested conviction of seasoned medical missionary to Southeast Asia, Joann Goatcher.

Goatcher served with her husband, Earl, during the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Thailand relief effort to help refugees in crisis. The two, she as a doctor and he as a hospital administrator, operated one field hospital and managed several others just across the border from Cambodia's "killing fields."

She said they discovered the resources of faith in a crisis situation as they participated with Christian missionaries from many agencies in a pooled effort to offer relief to the thousands of refugees who poured out of Cambodia.

Recounting her experiences, Goatcher told Baylor University students at a recent mission emphasis week, "If you're sure you are in God's will, every problem eventually will find a solution."

"How do I know I'm called to ministry?" students wanted to know. For her, the calling came early—by the age of nine. At age 13 she had written to the Foreign Mission Board about medical mission work and at age 16 she found herself at Baylor in "a very difficult major." Because the work was so hard, she changed majors for a semester and received lower grades, so she returned to pre-medical courses, where "I knew I was in God's will." And her grades went up again.

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Students seeking God's will for their lives expressed fears that their parents would not want them to go so far away from home. "My mother would never let me go," said one student. Replied Goatcher, "My parents worried about our decision to go overseas. But after a while, when they saw we were 'still alive' and all right, they began to be more accepting. I learned that God can take care of parents' feelings."

Young men and women often fear they will never marry if they follow a call to mission work. Goatcher was well along in her medical training and unwilling to compromise her calling when she first met her husband. Later, when he confirmed his own calling, things seemed to fall into place. The key seemed to be priorities—putting the calling before all else.

"I could never raise a child on the mission field," some students said, seeking Goatcher's opinion. "It seems unfair to your children to take them."

She replied: "Our two children were young when we went to Thailand for the first time to set up a hospital. That was long before the Cambodian crisis, and the children—a son and a daughter—enjoyed the experience. I arranged my schedule and taught them at home as well as sending them to schools in Bangkok. They received a very good education. We came back to the (United) States when the oldest was starting junior high, and they were well prepared for American schooling."

But do children develop negative attitudes toward mission work after they have had to be a part of the missionary sacrifice, students also asked her. Not always, in her experience. After the Goatchers completed work in the Thai hospital while the children were young, they turned it over to Thai leadership and returned to Texas for a few years. But when the opportunity to go to Thailand opened up again, the children—then college aged—were "very excited that we were returning."

God's call is clear when it comes, her experience demonstrated. When the refugee crisis began, the Foreign Mission Board called unexpectedly—"just after we were thinking we would never go back." Both Goatchers worked in seven of the 22 refugee camps, he administering funds and personnel and she directing a 100-bed field hospital staffed by refugees whom she trained as doctor's aides.

One question on the minds of the students was if missionaries grow tired. Certainly, she said, especially amid the "constant litany of torture and death which we heard from thousands of refugees." But she added, "We were satisfied that we were where we were supposed to be, providing what was most needed" for the countless numbers of homeless, many sole survivors of their families.

When the government closed the camps gradually by 1986, the Goatchers came home again, but only for a short while. Now they are looking to new areas of need—possibly Viet Nam, where the door is opening a crack, or to India, where they already have begun to set up primary healthcare courses in villages having no doctors, no education, no roads or written language.

And what do missionaries most need, if she could sum it up in a word?

The key to service, she said, is "flexibility."

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Short-Term Missionaries Study
For Long-Term Ministries

By Scott Collins

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Missionaries generally convert people in need.

But seeing the needs of non-Christians has converted at least 76 current Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students who originally intended to be missionaries for only two years.

They are former journeymen who have been so moved by the needs of the world that they are getting seminary training to go back into the world. Most are volunteers for career missions.

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F-SWBTS

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board started the journeyman program in the 1960s to give recent college graduates opportunities for short-term mission service. Although the program is intended for people who do not plan to become career missionaries, a majority of journeymen get hooked on missions.

That leads many to seminary.

The question of a 14-year-old girl in Macao caused journeyman Jana McClinton to see her own need for theological education. "She asked me, 'Do you really believe there is a God?'" McClinton recalls. "It was the first time anyone ever asked me that."

McClinton realized she needed to know how to communicate the gospel in a "simple but meaningful way," she says. So when her two-year term was finished, she enrolled at Southwestern.

"I saw how much I lacked in Bible knowledge," McClinton says. "The more you learn, the more you realize you're lacking from a theological and counseling standpoint."

Former journeymen like McClinton approach seminary with a better "world view" than most students, says Earl Martin, professor of missions. "They add a dimension to the classroom which is very helpful. They have an excitement for missions which is infectious in the classroom and on campus."

McClinton says she "came back to the States ready to be a learner. I have more of an open perspective."

This excitement often draws the former journeymen to mission opportunities while in seminary. McClinton works with Vietnamese young people through Travis Avenue Baptist Church. Thomas Wright started a Laotian church.

Wright did student and refugee work in Bangkok, Thailand. He now is a doctoral student in missions and a national ethnic missionary with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The former journeymen help lead Southwestern's annual student mission conference and counsel peers about mission service.

"Their prime value is the way they interpret missions to the seminary community," says Jim Riddell, Foreign Mission Board candidate consultant. "Journeymen have a vision for a world beyond Fort Worth and Texas. They have become world citizens."