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March 16, 1986

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**Mercer Urged To Expel Students
Who Pose For Playboy Magazine**

By Jack U. Harwell

ATLANTA (BP)—Mercer University has been asked by the Georgia Baptist Convention Executive Committee to expel any student who poses for Playboy magazine.

The appeal came in a resolution passed by the executive committee, March 10, despite a statement by Mercer's president that such an expulsion might be illegal.

Mercer, a 5,200-student school affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention, has been front-page news in Georgia since Playboy listed it as one of the "top 10 party schools" in the nation. Early in March, a Playboy photographer went to Macon, where Mercer is located, hoping to photograph Mercer coeds for an October issue on students from those 10 schools. Secular news reports indicated 25 Mercer girls volunteered to pose, five of them nude.

Several members of the Georgia Baptist Executive Committee demanded to know why Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey had not "taken a strong stand" and threatened expulsion for any student who would pose for Playboy.

Godsey responded: "We deeply regret the Playboy issue. It was not initiated by Mercer. We have objected to this inclusion as a 'top 10 party school.' We have talked with students. We have encouraged them not to pose.

"However, we must face civil rights laws which state that anyone 18 years old is an adult. ... It will be an act of civil disobedience to expel a student who poses. ... We have not decided that is the better course of action. ... Obviously, Playboy hopes we will expel a student and bring about a lawsuit, to give them the kind of publicity they seek.

"We made it clear that Playboy could not come on the Mercer campus, and they have not," Godsey said. "We cannot control actions of adult students off the campus."

Executive committee members also grilled Godsey about recent issues of the student newspapers, The Mercer Cluster, which carried ads for the Playboy photographer and for condoms. Some wanted the editor fired, others wanted the administration to set policies about what students could publish.

Godsey replied: "We consider a student newspaper to be a laboratory for journalism students. But in the last few days, we have drawn up new guidelines which make a distinction between advertising and editorial matters. And we will not allow ads for such items as alcohol, firearms, contraceptives, etc. I find these entirely unacceptable. I regret what happened."

Godsey insisted Mercer has an "underlying commitment to Christianity and to Georgia Baptists. I believe we are making a strong Christian witness on our campus."

Trustees also were asked to consider keeping Tift College property in Forsyth, Ga., "in the Georgia Baptist Convention family," if Tift is closed.

Tift is a Georgia Baptist female college that has struggled with dwindling enrollment. In February of 1986, Tift trustees asked Mercer to absorb Tift into its program and the merger was approved, effective in June of 1986. Mercer made a pledge to make a "good-faith effort" to keep Tift open at least one year.

In November of 1986, Mercer announced Tift would be closed in June of 1987, when enrollment would be down to 82 students on campus. In the last 30 days, Tift alumni and businessmen in Forsyth have protested the closing and formed "SavTift," an organization to stall the closing and reclaim the property from Mercer.

In the March 10 executive committee meeting in Atlanta, SavTift representatives were present but were not allowed to address the committee. The committee approved a report from its own administration committee, which pointed out once "money or property of any kind" is given to Mercer, by charter it is to "be controlled exclusively by the board of trustees" of Mercer.

That resolution urged Mercer trustees to "look favorably at making the Tift College campus available for Georgia Baptist Convention use ... if Tift College is closed."

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Home Mission Board Plans
State Paper Supplements

By Joe Westbury

Baptist Press
3/16/87

N-HMB

ATLANTA (BP)—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has announced plans to tell the stories of the agency's 3,637 missionaries by producing Missions/USA supplements to Baptist state papers.

The new effort of increasing Southern Baptist awareness of missions in their midsts was unveiled by Bob Banks, interim agency president, during the March board meeting in Atlanta.

"Across this nation we have witnessed the ongoing ministry of home missionaries," Banks said. "In many ways, they are the best kept secret among Southern Baptists. Hardly a day passes that I do not see and hear of home missionaries who are giving their all in missions and evangelism."

To reach a larger audience of Baptist lay people, Banks said the agency would begin in September a pilot project involving three Baptist state papers. Stories and photographs from Missions/USA, the board's magazine, will be printed and distributed as supplements inserted in the state papers.

During a five-month test period, the supplements will be produced in the Baptist Standard in Texas, the California Southern Baptist and the Biblical Recorder in North Carolina. Banks showed to the directors a printed "mockup" of what the pilot project supplement might look like in the California Southern Baptist.

Slated for September, October, January, February and March issues, the venture will immediately reach a combined readership of 477,000 in California, North Carolina and Texas. The supplement will dovetail local and national home missions stories and will appear as a four-page insert in tabloid papers and an eight-page insert in magazine formats.

The board is considering expanding the supplement, which will appear once monthly in each of the papers, to the remaining 34 state papers with a combined readership of nearly 2 million as funds permit. Banks said the Home Mission Board would be hosting the editors of Baptist state papers for a briefing in September to discuss details of the plan.

The supplements in state papers is part of a four-pronged approach to tell the home missions story, Banks told the board's directors. Other aspects include cutting the number of pages in Missions/USA, increasing free distribution to key leaders, correlating content with Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood themes and inserting newsletters to key target audiences to meet the needs of busy readers.

Beginning with the May-June issue, the award-winning magazine will be streamlined from an average of 74 pages to 64 pages with 16 pages of color. Funds saved from the format change will be targeted to increasing the number of complimentary subscriptions to selected leadership audiences in the convention, explained Phyllis Thompson, recently-elected editor of the magazine.

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The September-October issue will be the first to be sent to all home missionaries, pastors, chaplains, directors of missions and church WMU and Brotherhood directors, church evangelism and missions development committee leaders, seminary missions classes and Baptist campus ministers.

Also beginning in September the magazine will begin including a special insert to three of those target audiences—pastors, Brotherhood and WMU directors—to highlight content material that is tailored to their interests.

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N- FMB

Baptists Mobilize
Relief For Ecuador

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
3/16/87

QUITO, Ecuador (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries and Ecuadorian Baptists set up warehouse space to receive about 40 tons of food, blankets, clothing and tools from Southern Baptists as they mobilized earthquake relief.

A three-member disaster relief team headed by Cameron Byler from the denomination's brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., planned to leave Miami, with the provisions by commercial cargo jet March 18.

Ecuadorian Baptists and missionaries will distribute food in Quito, where many of the thousands left homeless are living with relatives. They plan to use food distribution as a way to share the gospel.

The disaster team also will work with two missionaries who set up a communications center in Lago Agrio, a town east of the affected area. The team will be examining the need for additional volunteers from state Brotherhood organizations, who could help rebuild homes and schools.

Officials said 1,000 people were either dead or missing after two powerful quakes shook mountain snowcaps loose and sent water, mud and debris sliding into river valleys March 5 and 6. Sludge and floods inundated entire villages, swept away whole sections of road, and snapped the country's most important oil line as the overflow rumbled down the eastern face of the Andes Mountains and into the Amazon River basin.

Missionary Larry Doyle, chairman of Southern Baptist mission work in Ecuador, said he flew into Lago Agrio March 10 to survey the needs. Accompanying him were Jim Tye, a missionary from Oklahoma City, and Jim Godsoe, a Rochester, Ill., resident on special assignment with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Doyle, a native of Cave City, Ky., returned to Quito, but left Tye and Godsoe to set up a relief coordination center in the town.

After a drive into the area closest to the quake's epicenter, Tye and Godsoe reported that Ecuadorians were still afraid to go back inside their homes more than a week after the tremors. They were sleeping outside in the rain and under makeshift shelter.

Most of the people Doyle talked to were settlers who had moved from the more populous western sector of the country, nearer the Atlantic coast, into the area around the eastern oil fields. They had built farms and ranches as the oil industry grew. "When the mudslides came, they just lost everything," Doyle said. "The ones I talked to were going back toward the coast, to Quito or to Guayaquil."

Officials used Lago Agrio as a staging area where refugees were fed and loaded into planes bound for Quito. Many of them walked for days from villages off the main road before being airlifted by helicopter. Southern Baptist missionaries worked with other Christian groups to provide nightly worship services and spiritual counseling at the Lago Agrio airport.

Doyle said he knew of one family of 14 that walked toward a main road from deep in the interior. They had eaten nothing for two days and had no money to buy food. They came with only the clothes they were wearing and the children were barefoot. The woman was carrying a baby on her back. They were given oatmeal at the relief station in Lago Agrio as they awaited a transport plane.

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Baptist work in the area continued, Doyle said. The nine churches and other preaching points in that part of the country are located northeast of the damage. One of the two biggest churches in the region is located in Lago Agrio, where missionaries Garreth and Elaine Joiner work. The Joiners, from Fort Davis and Dallas, Texas, have been in the United States since late February, but are scheduled to return to Ecuador soon.

Brotherhood And FMB Head
Relief Effort In Ecuador

By Jim Burton

Baptist Press
3/16/87

N-CO
(B'hood)

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A Boeing 707 loaded with food and clothing donated by Southern Baptists will be delivered to Ecuador, reported Cameron Byler, national disaster relief coordinator for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Bryan Brasington, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director for Spanish-speaking South America, said about \$10,000 has been designated for this project from the board.

Located in South America, Ecuador was struck by a series of earthquakes March 5-6. Mudslides and floods have resulted, leaving thousands of people homeless. According to Ecuador's president, Leon Febres Cordero, more than 1,000 people are dead or missing.

"In all our responses, we respond according to the needs as expressed by the missionaries or the field," said Brasington.

Twelve Southern Baptist missionaries and 24 Ecuador Baptists will be responsible for the distribution of food and clothes from Quito and Lago Agrio.

A damage-assessment team headed by Byler will travel from Miami, with the cargo to Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Joining Byler will be Ron Patterson, a regional disaster relief coordinator in Florida, and Cal Jones, Louisiana Baptist disaster relief coordinator.

An airline that has asked to remain anonymous has donated the use of the aircraft. Ecuadorian Airlines is to provide free help with loading and unloading the aircraft, and fuel for the flight is being provided by the Ecuadorian government.

Most of the goods were purchased with money from the Foreign Mission Board and the Florida Baptist Convention. In addition, several Florida churches collected special offerings Sunday, March 15. Four state Brotherhood departments have contributed to the cause: Texas, \$7,500; Oklahoma, \$1,000; Louisiana, \$1,000; and South Carolina, \$2,500.

Lynchburg Baptist Church in Winterhaven, Fla., raised \$1,200, said Patterson, pastor of the church.

"What we're needing most of all is money for food," said Byler. "We're getting food for 10 percent under wholesale."

Because of the size of the shipment, Byler said, packaged foods are easiest to handle.

Five hundred boxes of clothes donated by Seventh Day Adventists will be included in the shipment.

Joseph Sustarsic, Brotherhood director for Miami Baptist Association and disaster relief coordinator for south Florida, said more than 20 Baptist men from Miami loaded about 21,000 pounds of goods over the weekend. Another 35,000 to 40,000 pounds of goods was to arrive from Winterhaven March 16. "We're expecting enough food to load out by Tuesday or Wednesday (March 17 or 18) and go to Ecuador," said Byler.

This project represents the first joint disaster-relief effort of the Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board in South America.

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In 1985, the Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board cooperated in Central America during the aftermath of earthquakes in Mexico City. In addition to funds from the Foreign Mission Board, four disaster-relief tractor-trailer units were dispatched for feeding.

Ecuador has a population of about 9 million people. Forty-eight Southern Baptist missionaries serve the country, Brasington said.

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New Group Takes On Koop,
Includes Southern Baptists

By Stan Hasteley

N- BJC
Baptist Press
3/16/87

WASHINGTON (BP)--A new coalition of conservative, "pro-family" groups and individuals has been organized to counter U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's approach to combating AIDS through sex education in public schools. Seven Southern Baptists are among the 55 founders of the coalition.

Headed by founder and president of Eagle Forum, Phyllis Schlafly, the Coalition for Teen Health criticized Koop at a March 13 news conference at the National Press Club for launching what Schlafly called a "massive" effort to set up clinics in schools across the nation to dispense condoms to public schoolchildren.

"Some people are trying to use panic about AIDS" to launch such an effort, she said at the news conference. Primary among them, she emphasized, is Koop, the nation's chief public health official. In the past, Koop has been praised by conservatives for advocating conservative positions inside the Reagan administration.

That perception of the surgeon general changed, however, with his November 1986 report to the nation on AIDS and a speech several weeks later at the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters. In his report and speech, Koop advocated "basic sexual education" for American schoolchildren, beginning during the elementary years.

At her news conference, Schlafly said Koop's suggestion will be implemented in the form of sex clinics that will dispense birth control information and devices, including condoms. She compared handing out condoms to dispensing clean needles to adolescent drug abusers or advocating low-tar cigarettes to teenage smokers.

Schlafly said Koop instead ought to be supporting legislation she has called for that would mandate the teaching of sexual abstinence in public schools and forbid the teaching of sex outside of marriage.

In a March 2 letter, the 55 founders of the Coalition for Teen Health asked Koop to urge children and young people to abstain from sexual activities until a commitment is made "to a monogamous, lifetime marriage." Additionally, they urged Koop to call on state legislatures to enshrine that principle in law.

Replying to the letter, Koop wrote March 11 that he always has advocated "a monogamous and mutually faithful relationship" and that those who are unmarried should practice abstinence. But he reiterated the position that those who choose not to abstain or to practice monogamy should "take every precaution to protect themselves and their partners against infection."

Southern Baptists who joined Schlafly in forming the new coalition and in confronting Koop were Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas, and his wife, Dorothy; Nancy and Anne Pressler, the wife and daughter, respectively, of Paul Pressler, a Texas appeals court judge, Houston; former U.S. congressman Albert Lee Smith Jr., an insurance executive from Birmingham, Ala., and his wife, Eunice; and Ed McAteer, founder and president of The Roundtable.

Others in the Schlafly coalition include such conservative leaders as Reed Irvine of Accuracy in Media; D. James Kennedy, pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Paul M. Weyrich of the Coalition for America; Howard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus; and anti-abortion leaders Judie Brown, Mildred F. Jefferson and Bernard Nathanson.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story, Southwestern Trustees Elect 4; Commend Dilday For Statement, mailed 3/12/87, please make the following correction in the fifth graf and all following references.

New faculty include James C. Denison, not Dennison as written.

Thank you,
Baptist Press

Photographers, Magazine
Win Major Photo Awards

N- (O
(FMB, HMB)

Baptist Press
3/16/87

COLUMBIA, Mo. (BP)--Photographer Joanna Pinneo of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; The Commission magazine, the board's journal of foreign missions; and Mark Sandlin, director of photojournalism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, have been honored in the 44th annual Pictures of the Year Competition.

Pinneo, 32, who travels the world photographing missionaries and the people they serve, won third-place recognition as magazine photographer of the year.

Pinneo also received awards of excellence in the magazine news/documentary and magazine picture story categories for her profiles of a mudslide victim in Colombia and a family living on the streets of Calcutta, India.

The Associated Press nominated Pinneo for a Pulitzer Prize in 1986 for her photograph of an injured child separated from his parents by the volcano mudslide disaster in Armero, Columbia.

The Commission was recognized with an award of excellence for best use of pictures by a magazine. Other winners in that category included National Geographic, LIFE, Newsweek and American Photographer.

Sandlin earned an award of excellence for a series of photographs from Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center in New Orleans. The photographs accompanied a story in the Home Mission Board's magazine, MissionsUSA.

The magazine photographer awards, along with newspaper photographer of the year and the Canon photo essayist award, are the top honors in the national competition. The event is sponsored by the National Press Photographers Association, the University of Missouri School of Journalism and Canon USA. More than 31,000 newspaper and magazine photographs were submitted for judging this year.