



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 21, 1987

87-59

SOUTHERN BAPTIST WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Annual Meeting

June 14-15, 1987

Clarion Hotel, St. Louis

THEME: "Celebrate" *CO-N*

Sunday Afternoon, June 14, 1987

- 1:45--Pre-session Music -- Betty Jean Chatham, concert artist, Shelbyville, Ky., pianist; Emily Chatham, musical performer, Charlotte, N.C., violinist
- 2:00--Celebrate: Study God's Word
 - Opening Meditation: Celebrate -- The First Eyewitness, Mary Magdalene -- Laurita Mullins Miller, actress, Vandalia, Ill.; "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses" (Acts 2:32 KJV)
 - Call to Order -- Marjorie J. McCullough, WMU national president, Alexandria, La.
 - Hymns: "Joy to the World"
"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"
 - Prayer
 - Bible Study: Celebrate -- The Resurrection -- Dorothy Elliott Sample, WMU past-president, Flint, Mich.; "And if Christ has not been raised ... your faith also is in vain" (1 Cor. 15:14 NAS)
 - Special Music -- Malvie Giles, soloist, Magnolia, Ark.
 - Our Session in Focus: I Remember Studying God's Word -- Marjorie McCullough
 - Hymn: "Send Forth the Word"
 - Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report -- Part I; National Acteens Panel -- Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
 - Celebrate with an Offering
 - Thank Offering
 - Missions Talk Time: Celebrate -- Living Witnesses; Going Everywhere Teaching the Word; "Go ... make disciples ... baptize ... teach" (Matt. 28:19-20 KJV); Interviewer -- Suzanne Moss McMahon, television reporter, Dallas; Missionary participants -- Kendale Moore, Albuquerque, N.M.; Lynn Barrett, Hong Kong; Margaret Lasley, Louisville, Ky.
 - Hymn: "He Lives"
 - Message: Translating God's Love -- Roberta Ryan, writer, Spanish Baptist Publishing House, El Paso, Texas
 - Hallelujah Chorus -- Missouri Music Women
- 5:30--Prayer Box Supper

Sunday Evening, June 14

- 7:15--Pre-session Music -- Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist
- 7:30--Celebrate: Look at the Fields
 - Opening Meditation: Celebrate -- The Dreamer in Action, Annie Armstrong -- Laurita Miller
 - Hymn: "We've a Story to Tell"
 - Prayer
 - Bible Study: Celebrate -- Study the Fields -- Dorothy Sample; "The harvest is plentiful ..." (Matt. 9:37 NIV)
 - Special Music -- Malvie Giles
 - Our Session in Focus: Look at the Fields -- Marjorie McCullough; Recognition of Missionaries
 - Hymn: "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"
 - Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report -- Part II; Vision 88 -- Carolyn Weatherford
 - Special Music

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- Missions Feature: Celebrate — The Love of God — Russell Begaye, home missionary, Arlington, Texas; Pam Wesley, children's music director, First Indian Baptist Church, Albuquerque; Rose Ignacio, WMU director, Tinan Baptist Church, Cuba, N.M.; Lydia Whitey, WMU director, First Indian Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Helen Coons, associational WMU director, Sapulpa, Okla.; Helen Begaye, home missionary, Arlington, Texas.
- Benediction

Monday Morning, June 15

8:45--Pre-session Music -- Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist

9:00--Celebrate: Pray

- Opening Meditation: Celebrate -- The Woman Who Prayed with Others, Ann Baker Graves -- Laurita Miller
- Hymns: "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" and "I Am Praying for You"
- Prayer
- Bible Study: Celebrate -- By Praying for Others -- Dorothy Sample; "... ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24 KJV)
- Special Music -- Missouri Music Women
- Our Session in Focus: Missionary Praying -- Marjorie McCullough
- Hymn: "Teach Me to Pray"
- Business
- Hymn: "God, Our Author and Creator"
- Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report -- Part III; National Prayer Plan, I Can Have a Part -- Carolyn Weatherford
- Celebrate: You Prayed For Me -- June Scobee, widow of astronaut Dick Scobee, Houston
- Hymn: "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"
- Missions Talk Time: Celebrate Christ for All -- Everywhere; "I chose you to go and bear fruit -- fruit that will last" (John 15:16 NIV)
Interviewer -- Suzanne Moss McMahon; Participants -- Judy Edwards, home missionary, Yah To Hey, N.M.; Vera Gardner, foreign missionary, Thailand; Charlotte Cearley, foreign missionary, Zimbabwe
- Special Music -- Malvie Giles
- Keynote Address: World in View -- R. Keith Parks, president, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.
- Benediction

11:45--Promotivation Luncheon

Monday Afternoon, June 15

1:45--Pre-session Music -- Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist

2:00--Celebrate: Give

- Opening Meditation: Celebrate -- The Life Fragrant with Self-denial, Kathleen Mallory -- Laurita Miller
- Hymn: "Come, All Christians, Be Committed"
- Prayer
- Bible Study: Celebrate -- Through Giving -- Dorothy Sample; "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8 NIV)
- Special Music -- Malvie Giles
- Our Session in Focus: Stimulate the Grace of Giving -- Marjorie McCullough
- Hymn: "Something For Thee"
- Missions Talk Time: Celebrate -- Grow in Giving; "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15 NIV)
Interviewer--Suzanne Moss McMahon; Participants -- Virgie Brown, home missionary, Milwaukee; Dan Stringer, executive director, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville; Jerry Moser, home missionary, Theriot, La.; Jane Courtney, foreign missionary, Guatemala
- Hymn: "We Give Thee But Thine Own"
- Special Music -- Missouri Music Women
- Message: Celebrate -- Through Giving -- John Mills, director for West Africa, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond
- Benediction

4:00--Autograph Party

A Century to Celebrate: History of WMU -- Catherine Allen, WMU associate executive director, Birmingham

A Backward Glance: History of WMU -- Rees Watkins, author, Richmond

And Some Had Dreams: History of WMU -- Jackie Durham, author, Decatur, Ga.

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Monday Evening, June 15

7:15—Pre-session Music — Betty Jean Chatham, pianist; Emily Chatham, violinist

7:30—Celebrate: Go

—Open Meditation: Celebrate — The One Who Keeps On Going, Martha Franks — Laurita Miller

—Hymn: "O Zion Haste"

—Prayer

—Bible Study: Celebrate — As You Go — Dorothy Sample; "... Go to the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind" (Mark 16:15 TEV).

—Special Music — Malvie Giles

—Our Session in Focus: Create an Environment — Marjorie McCullough

—Hymn: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

—Cause for Celebration: WMU Annual Report — Part V — Carolyn Weatherford

—Celebrate — His Willingness to Use Me — Mary Saunders, foreign missions volunteer, Richmond

—Celebrate Ten Years of Missions Education Council — Carolyn Weatherford

—Celebrate the Future: Let the Church Reach Out — Missouri Music Women

—Benediction

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Southern Baptist Women
To 'Celebrate' WMU

By D'Lesia Carroll

Co-
WMU-NBaptist Press
4/21/87

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Southern Baptist women will look toward the centennial celebration of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union during the organization's 99th annual meeting June 14-15 in St. Louis.

"Celebrate" will be the theme for the national WMU meeting, to be held at the Clarion Hotel. The conference will be a primary event leading up to the celebration of WMU's 100th anniversary, May 13-14, 1988, in Richmond, Va.

A featured guest at the St. Louis meeting will be June Scobee, widow of Dick Scobee, who was killed in the Challenger space shuttle disaster. She will share her experiences of the tragedy and how she depended on WMU prayer support for strength.

National WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford will give an annual report on WMU, encourage participation in the national missions prayer plan and challenge participants to reach WMU's "Vision 88" goal of enrolling 2 million women, girls and preschoolers in WMU by the end of 1988.

Daily program features will include Bible studies led by former WMU President Dorothy Sample, and sessions on missionary tasks led by WMU President Marjorie McCullough.

Suzanne Moss McMahon, a newscaster from Dallas, will be interviewer during three panel discussions about home and foreign missions.

Dramatic meditations will be performed by Laurita Mullins Miller of Vandalia, Ill. She will portray Jesus' Follower Mary Magdalene and four WMU leaders from the past.

Meal events held in conjunction with the WMU annual meeting will be a prayer box supper, a Baptist Nursing Fellowship breakfast and a "promotivation" luncheon. All meal functions will be held at the Clarion Hotel.

Music director for the meeting will be Malvie Giles from Magnolia, Ark. Betty Jean Chatham of Shelbyville, Ky., will be pianist, and her daughter, Emily, of Charlotte, N.C., will be violinist.

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Missionary Nurse Fights
To Restore Health, Joy

By Irma Duke

FMB-N

Baptist Press
4/21/87

OGBOMOSHO, Nigeria (BP)—To Ayo, joy was no more than a word. She seemed to have little chance of ever experiencing the overflowing emotion for which she was named.

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"Little one, I hope you make it," Sharron Hawk whispered as she clutched Ayo, meaning joy, close to her. The Southern Baptist missionary nurse knew the chances weren't good for the almost lifeless little girl. She had seen four other severely malnourished children die in the previous week.

Hawk still remembers the first time one of her babies died at Kersey Children's Home outside Ogbomosho, Nigeria. The mother quickly bundled up the child on her back and hailed a taxi, just as if the baby were going home well.

In the last four years, the Southern Baptist missionary has seen many go home that way and it still seems cold, unfeeling. But now Hawk better understands the situation. She knows that a taxi driver, because of superstition, will not transport the mother if he suspects the child is dead.

In those same four years, Hawk has treated thousands who came as not much more than skin and bones and left as smiling, roundfaced children.

The children's home, a part of Baptist Medical Centre run by Nigerian Baptists, started as an orphanage but has been converted into a clinic and nutrition center. Hawk and a Nigerian staff of 20 people treat about 450 to 500 inpatients and see another 14,400 outpatients annually. Inpatients stay a month, on the average, being brought back to health while their mothers are taught better hygiene methods and nutrition. The home requires an adult to come with each child. The family pays for its food and medicine. Most hear about the nutrition program from others who've been there and gone home with healthy youngsters.

Malnourishment and childhood diseases such as measles are common causes of death among children in Nigeria. Shortly after coming to the home, Hawk was confronted with 13 cases of measles. "I just went from mat to mat, trying to keep them alive," she recalls.

"They're not all going to make it," a veteran missionary told Hawk, almost matter-of-factly, trying to help her face the inevitable.

Even in Nigeria, one of the richer African nations, the physical needs overwhelm her at times, Hawk says. Many times, mothers bring the children to Kersey as a last resort, after home remedies and local medicine men's remedies have been tried to no avail.

She feels frustrated and helpless when some mothers return with their children, noticeably malnourished again because the women have not followed her instructions. Once she cared for a child so severely malnourished that the skin on his feet and thighs had sloughed off. He got well, went home and died. "I don't know what happened," she says.

Even though the 36-year-old missionary lives on the mission compound, some distance from Kersey, quite often Kersey's night watchman comes for her because a child is critically ill. Many times she's met the watchman at the door, having awakened with an instinct that he would be coming.

One of the most exciting things the home is doing came about because of a price hike for milk. The home could no longer afford the milk to feed the children, and Hawk and now-retired missionary Ruth Womack knew Nigerians couldn't afford it either. "When the price of milk got out of sight, I began to panic," Hawk confesses. But she says Womack began to pray. She also began to pray for wisdom to know what to do.

That's when soybean milk that is high in protein, one of the common deficiencies in the Nigerian diet, became a mainstay for Kersey and teaching soybean milk preparation became a priority. It wasn't easy, however. The Kersey staff had to convince farmers to grow it and then convince mothers to use it. In the process, the home became a "middle man."

"Now we sell more than two tons a month," Hawk reports. Even though almost 1,000 farmers in the area are now harvesting it, she says there have been times when Kersey has been down to the last bean.

People interested in improving nutrition come from all over the world to observe the Kersey nutrition program. Hawk also teaches soybean milk cooking classes to mothers of children in the pediatrics unit at the Baptist hospital in Ogbomosho.

Trying to meet physical needs is just part of the story. Half of the mothers are Muslim. She says it's great to see the kids grow but it's even more fulfilling to work with the mothers and to become friends with them and to tell them about Christ. "If I didn't have a message to share, there would be a lot lacking," she says. Clapping and singing with the children and their mothers in Sunday worship at the nutrition center is the highlight of Hawk's week.

Olufunke's mother was one of those who was Muslim when she brought her swollen and lethargic daughter to Hawk. Hawk played with the child almost immediately to see what kind of response she would get, just as she does with most of her children. Tragically weak, Olufunke fell off the stool where she sat and couldn't get up.

During their stay, Olufunke's mother became a Christian. After they went home, the new convert brought her husband back so Hawk could tell him about Christ. Several months later, this Christian family visited Hawk to thank her for all the changes that had taken place in their lives, both physical and spiritual.

Another time, an old "baba," or father, walked in Hawk's office "with the cutest 6-year-old boy."

"Do you remember me?" he said, as he handed her a stalk of bananas. After thinking for a minute, she recognized him as the father who, a couple of months ago, had brought in a boy so anemic he had gone into heart failure. On that first visit, she immediately took them to the hospital, then went to the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary nearby to find a student who would donate blood for the child.

The boy standing before her couldn't have been healthier. He and his Muslim father were there to express their gratitude for what Hawk had done. This gave her one more opportunity to tell them about Christ.

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

New England Churches
Adapt To Reach People

By Frank Wm. White

BSSB-F

Baptist Press
4/21/87

BOSTON, Mass. (BP)—Whether it is digging out a basement by hand for more Sunday school space, sending families to a nearby community to establish a mission or meeting in a Jewish synagogue, Southern Baptist churches in New England are using innovative methods to establish their presence.

Southern Baptists in the Baptist Convention of New England believe they are part of a spiritual awakening in the region, says Al Riddley, director of church development for the convention: "We are ready to do things for renewal and awakening. Spiritual revival for the nation began here 200 years ago, and we believe it can happen again."

The oldest Southern Baptist church in New England was started as a mission less than 30 years ago. And one-half of the 88 churches in the convention are less than four years old, reports convention Executive Director James Currin.

In Hampstead, N.H., members of Island Pond Baptist Church created new space and now may be able to purchase more needed property even though others said neither would be possible.

Church members manually dug out a basement in their century-old building to gain six Sunday school classrooms despite professional advice that the basement would be prone to flooding, says Carlos Paz, who became pastor of the church in October 1985 after the project was completed.

During recent flooding in the area, Paz was pumping water — not from the church basement but from his own basement next door. The church basement remained dry.

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After workers in the recent Greater Boston Metro Sunday School Enrollment-Training Clinic suggested the church find more space, Paz found that a landowner who others said would never sell property to the church is willing to negotiate after all.

In Marlborough, Mass., starting a new mission was made easier when 17 families from First Baptist Church of Sudbury, Mass., volunteered to be part of the venture.

"We asked for five families to help start the mission. We never expected 17," notes Mark Acuff, pastor of the new Grace Baptist Church in Marlborough.

Started as a mission in October 1985 and constituted as a church in November 1986, the church now has 144 people enrolled in Sunday school and a church membership of 66.

Although the church began using a Seventh-Day Adventist church building in January, leaders hope to look soon for their own property. Workers in the enrollment-training clinic showed church leaders the facilities would not allow space for anticipated growth.

In Worcester, Mass., where the skyline is marked with distinctive New England church spires, a Jewish synagogue may seem an unlikely gathering place for people who made professions of faith in Christ during a "Good News Worcester, God Loves You" crusade. But more than 30 people are attending Heritage Baptist Church, started as a mission of First Baptist Church of nearby Shrewsbury, after the crusade was conducted in 1985 by more than 350 people from Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

Pastor Joel Harris says Southern Baptist work in Worcester, New England's second-largest city, includes, in addition to Heritage Church, a Spanish church, a predominantly Black church and an inner-city mission.

More than 70 percent of Worcester's population of 160,000 people is unchurched, Harris said. Through a one-day people search as part of the recent enrollment-training clinic, church members discovered 86 prospects.

For Springfield, Mass., Pastor Edgar Depaz, New England is a foreign mission field.

Depaz, a native of Guatemala who became a Christian at age 15, says, "the Lord led me to this mission field" where more than one-half million Hispanic people live among only nine Hispanic Southern Baptist churches.

He is pastor of Iglesia Bautista Sinai in Springfield, which was started in 1967 by a missions team led by former President Jimmy Carter.

The New England convention asked Depaz, a Fort Worth, Texas, pastor for more than 10 years, to become pastor of the church last year after it had declined to only one member. It now has a Sunday school enrollment of 45. During the clinic, the church found 29 new prospects among Springfield's more than 50,000 Hispanic population.

The church has started a Bible study in nearby Holyoke and soon hopes to have a mission there.

As director of the Hispanic ASSISTeam that provides Sunday school leadership training to Hispanic church workers in New England, Depaz said he would like to have more help: "There is so much to do. The people are hungry for the Word (Bible) and we need help to do it all."

Heritage, Island Pond, Grace and Sinai were among the 34 churches participating in the Greater Boston Metro Enrollment-Training Clinic, sponsored by the New England Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.