



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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House Committee Hears  
Testimony On Gleaning

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)--The ancient concept of gleaning is making a comeback as a possible way to help alleviate domestic hunger in the United States.

During a hearing on the subject, members of the Domestic Task Force of the House Select Committee on Hunger heard testimony about current gleaning projects and the need to expand such programs.

"There is nothing new about gleaning," said Rep. Tony P. Hall, D-Ohio. "It's not only ancient, but biblical."

Hall, a congressional advocate of gleaning as a source of food for the hungry, described a major gleaning project in his state. During the project's first year, Hall said, hundreds of volunteers from 37 church, civic, food relief and school groups donated more than 3,000 hours of time and took in almost 21 tons of food. He said his goal for this year is to double that tonnage.

Citing a General Accounting Office figure that 60 million tons of food rot in farm fields each year, Hall said, "Even if a fraction of that food could be salvaged and distributed to the needy, we would go a long way toward helping to feed the hungry of this nation."

Hall cited a number of advantages of gleaning:

- It offers an abundant source of free food that is clean and healthy.
- It requires neither massive government assistance nor bureaucracy and regulations.
- It provides people at the grassroots level an opportunity to become involved in fighting hunger and develops a sense of fellowship among participants.
- It supplies an additional tool for educating people about the problem of hunger.

Hall said state and local governments can help by passing laws to remove barriers to gleaning, such as limiting the liability of food donors, and by offering incentives for gleaning, such as providing tax incentives for charitable contributions of food.

Three other witnesses, each of whom has been involved in organizing or implementing gleaning projects, supported Hall's testimony.

Ray A. Buchanan, co-director of the Society of St. Andrew, described a program through which his anti-hunger organization salvages potatoes that otherwise would be wasted and distributes them in 47 states and the District of Columbia. In its first four years, the project salvaged more than 53 million pounds of potatoes and yams, he said.

"Tremendous amounts of perfectly nutritious produce never get consumed," Buchanan testified. "Thousands of tons of potatoes and other produce get thrown away every year because they are not pretty enough for the American consumer. The Society of St. Andrew is waging a war against this waste and against the hunger to which it contributes."

"There is no such thing as an ugly potato to a mother whose children are hungry. Yet in our country, where the numbers of hungry continue to grow larger, there are literally millions of pounds of ugly potatoes being dumped to rot."

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Buchanan made three recommendations for enhancing gleaning nationwide. He recommended establishing a national clearinghouse to connect growers, gleaners and distributors; publishing a handbook to provide details on organizing gleaning and produce salvage programs; and developing an advertising campaign to encourage participation in gleaning projects.

Susan Arneaud, Michigan's acting human services adviser to the governor, told about her state's efforts to encourage and support gleaning programs. Herschel A. Smith, a potato farmer from Blaine, Maine, testified about his involvement in the St. Andrew potato project and other gleaning projects.

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Japanese Visit Kentucky  
Church To Honor Missionary

By Todd Deaton

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STURGIS, Ky. (BP)--Jesus Christ means "love in any language."

That was the message five Japanese young women conveyed to members of First Baptist Church of Sturgis, Ky.

The love the Japanese sang about was the result of the work of foreign missionary Dorothy Lane, who went 36 years ago to their country to share the gospel.

The Japanese young women were members of a delegation of 24 Japanese Baptists -- 18 of whom had traveled about 8,000 miles and paid more than \$2,200 each -- to visit the Kentucky church where Lane's commitment for missions was fostered as a youth.

"We wanted to come to Sturgis for two purposes," said Shoji Okamura, pastor of Shimura Baptist Church in Tokyo. "First, we wanted to worship Christ with brothers and sisters in the faith. We also wanted to express our joy and gratitude to the members of Sturgis and to Southern Baptists for the one sent to us in 1951 as a missionary."

"We are grateful for the (Southern Baptist) Cooperative Program and for what it does to support missions work in our country and around the world," said Okamura, who also is president of the Japanese Baptist Convention and a professor at the Baptist seminary in Tokyo.

Lane, who retired in July 1986 from her appointment by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, worked alongside Okamura 25 years.

During her first 10 years she taught English at a missions school on the southern island of Kyushu. But in 1961 she teamed up with Okamura and a handful of Japanese believers to start the Shimura church.

After four years of work, the group established a church with 70 members. The congregation now has around 220 members and is helping start another missions effort.

Lane was active in an outreach ministry. She taught English and Bible classes during the week and directed a preschool program on Sundays.

Motoko Yamanaka, kindergarten teacher at Shimura, saw Lane's love for the Japanese in action: "Miss Lane taught many of our children about the love of Jesus Christ. She often baked cookies and cakes and brought them to the children. Through prayers, Miss Lane would teach them the importance of giving thanks for all God's blessings."

Many of these children were led to Christ under her care. One year 17 of the church's 18 conversions were the result of Lane's ministry to the children and their mothers.

"The Christian faith, transmitted from children to mothers and from mothers to their children, penetrated the Japanese culture," Yamanaka concluded.

Okamura, speaking through interpreter Yutaka Takarada, pastor of Japanese Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas, and former member of the Shimura church, reported God's work in Japan.

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"Missions work began only a century ago with two missionaries appointed by the Foreign Mission Board," said Okamura. "At first, there was little interest in Christianity. Buddhism and Communism were deeply rooted in our society."

Over the years the efforts of Southern Baptists through the board netted results. The Japanese Baptist Convention was founded in 1947 with 16 churches and 600 members and has grown to include 240 churches, 68 mission points and more than 30,000 members, he said.

"In 1977 the convention became self-sufficient," Okamura said. "We are now beginning to appoint our own missionaries."

Although Lane's work in Japan is completed, she lives on there in the hearts of the ones she touched. Eiji Iwasaki, 19, who attended her English and Bible classes, plans to become an English teacher himself. And Yorie Itoh, 32, whom she encouraged to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, hopes to return to the Japanese Baptist Convention as a minister of education.

Brodie Ambrose, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sturgis, presented Lane and Okamura with a hand-sewn quilt with a pattern of two squares representing Southern Baptists and Japanese Baptists. The squares were linked by a connecting block that represented Dorothy Lane, who united the churches of Sturgis and Shimura through love.

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North Central Directors  
Focus On Setting Identity

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press  
8/6/87

GREEN LAKE, Wis. (BP)--Doing church work effectively and establishing a community identity will help Southern Baptists develop a stronghold in the North Central United States, according to state leaders from the area.

Three state Sunday school directors from the seven-state region -- Jack Baker of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Norman Wallace of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention and T. Frank Smith of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan -- discussed their concerns for strengthening Baptist work during a Sunday school leadership conference in Green Lake, Wis.

The North Central region includes seven states in the five conventions of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Minnesota-Wisconsin. Iowa is a fellowship.

The region has about 30 million unchurched people, more than any other geographic region of the country, said Harry Piland, director of the Sunday school department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Even so, the region is "not anti-Christian or anti-church. Many have a religious background but do not experience a daily walk," explained Baker.

The North Central region is a center for religious activity with theological schools, seminaries and religious publishers in the Chicago area and the Billy Graham organization in Minneapolis, Baker pointed out.

Despite the acceptance of religion, the people may not understand who Southern Baptists are and may be put off by the "southern" part of the label, the directors agreed.

In order to reach the people in the area, Southern Baptists are emphasizing a person-to-person approach. "Touching lives is a solid kernel of ministry for us; it's what we need," said Wallace. We need the growth campaigns and big events, but we will be most effective with relational evangelism."

Because of the broader diversity of the region and the lack of understanding of who Southern Baptists are, an identity in the community must be established before a church will be effective knocking on doors or using other mass evangelism techniques, Smith pointed out.

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The Sunday school leadership conference at Green Lake, called Ridgecrest North, was an effort to help churches in the region train workers and develop Sunday school leadership skills. The state directors said they believe the conference, which will be held again in 1988, provides training for workers with a cultural identity different from established Southern states.

Baker said he believes Southern Baptist church members in newer convention areas often have a stronger doctrinal orientation and understanding than many in the South because doctrine is emphasized in training rather than taken for granted.

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Plan Enables New Christians  
To Receive Encouragement

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press  
8/6/87

GADSDEN, Ala. (BP)--Shaking a new Christian's hand and enthusiastically welcoming him into the church family is encouraging, but it falls short of giving him what he needs to grow spiritually, according to a church leader whose responsibility is to help new Christians grow.

New Christians, new church members or even those who recommit themselves to God deserve more than a pat on the back. They deserve a more mature Christian's guiding hand and the assurance someone will be near to help them grow spiritually.

"New Christians are babies in Christ," said Betty Jo Flowers, director of the new Christian encourager plan at Southside Baptist Church in Gadsden, Ala. "You don't just say to a baby, 'Your bottle's in the refrigerator, and your diaper's in the top drawer.' Many new Christians get that treatment, which is why a lot of Christians don't grow and stay frustrated."

The new Christian encourager plan, developed jointly by the church training and Sunday school departments of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and introduced in early 1986, is a program in which a more established Christian is assigned to a new Christian who joins the church.

The encourager's role is to assist the new Christian in completing the Survival Kit for New Christians and help him become involved in the church, memorize Scripture and establish a quiet time, said Stanley Howell, manager of the growth section of the church training department. Adults and youth can complete the Survival Kit in 13 weeks. Children only need six weeks.

Southside Baptist, a large, rural congregation of 1,300 members on the outskirts of Gadsden, recently adopted the program as a means to stop new Christians from "walking down the aisle and out the back door forever," said David Phillippe, Southside's minister of education.

The key to eliminating the dropout problem is for new Christians to establish friends and ties with the church, Howell said, noting, "This program enables encouragers to develop friendships with new Christians while they incorporate themselves into the church family."

Teresa Pritchett, a Southside encourager graduate under the guidance of Flowers, said: "When a lot of people give their lives to God, they don't know how to study the Bible, they just go to church. They might feel great for a few years, but if they're never taught to read the Bible, they just don't grow because they don't learn."

Southside became committed to the encourager plan in October 1986 after sporadic attempts by established members at keeping watch over new Christians failed, Phillippe said: "We knew we had a revival coming up and we wanted to do a good job in the initial counseling procedure. We secured about 20 hand-picked encouragers, and we needed every one of them and more.

"Our staff decided we didn't want to wait until these people who made professions of faith got cold. We wanted to get them while they were warm."

Flowers began serving as Southside's encourager director in January. In March, she had a list of 30 encouragers who were responsible for making weekly phone calls or visits to new Christians. Weekly contacts are required only during the time it takes to complete the survival kit, Flowers said. Longer-lasting friendships are voluntary.

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Encouragers need to "know their faith, be able to share their witness, have a close relationship to God, be knowledgeable of the Scripture and be personable," Phillippe said.

Howell added an encourager should be "compassionate and care about new Christians."

To date, the encourager program has been successful and Southside leaders plan to continue its use as a tool for helping Christians grow, Phillippe said.

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

Greek Scholar's Final Assignment  
Translates Into Retirement

By Elizabeth Watson

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8/6/87

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Ask any theology student who has attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in the past 37 years which professor most impacted his life, and the answer is likely to be, "Curtis Vaughan."

Vaughan is retiring from Southwestern in Fort Worth, Texas, where since 1950 he has transferred his love for Greek to students as professor of New Testament. He and his wife, Frances, will move to North Carolina this summer.

Vaughan's personal love for Greek is rooted in a childhood love for the Bible.

"One of the most influential things in my life was a birthday gift my oldest sister gave me," Vaughan said. "She gave me a Bible when I was just a kid. It was the first book I ever owned. It was mine. Because it was mine, I wanted to read it."

Through reading that Bible Vaughan felt God's call to ministry, he said, noting, "That gift nurtured my Christian life."

Another major influence was Vaughan's college Greek professor, R.E. Guy, he said: "Dr. Guy's classes were the high points of my days. He was such a superb master of the Greek language.

"He was the most demanding teacher I've ever known -- but he made me love Greek," Vaughan said. "If you don't love Greek, you won't study it."

Vaughan recalled attending his first Greek class as a student. "I held a Greek New Testament in my hand as I recited the Greek alphabet for the first time at Union University," he said.

"I remember the thrill I felt knowing that in my hand was a New Testament written in the very language of the apostles. I just had to learn more Greek. It gave me such a sense of wonder," he said.

At Southwestern Vaughan met Ray Summers, his primary Greek professor. "Although as a seminary student there were several professors I admired and respected, Dr. Ray Summers exerted a great influence on my life," Vaughan said.

Summers, retired chairman of the department of religion at Baylor University, was professor of New Testament at Southwestern from 1948 to 1953.

The same influence Summers had on Vaughan, Vaughan has had on at least five of Southwestern's eight New Testament professors, including Tom Urrey. Urrey echoed the opinions of each when he said, "More than anyone else, Curtis Vaughan has been the largest positive influence in my life."

Outside the classroom, Vaughan has been interim pastor of 22 churches, two in West Germany. "I like to make the Bible understandable for the person in the pew," he said.

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But Vaughan's biggest impact on Southern Baptists and Christian around the world may be as an author. He has written six commentaries covering nine New Testament books and co-written commentaries on Romans and 1 Corinthians and a Greek grammar. He was general editor of "The New Testament from 26 Translations" and the two volumes of "The Old Testament from 26 Translations."

Vaughan was an executive member of the review committee for the New King James Version New Testament and has contributed to various commentaries, convention study courses and theology journals.

More than 700,000 copies of his books have been sold.

Despite these accomplishments, Vaughan remains a shy professor. "I look upon teaching at Southwestern as just about the highest and holiest privilege I could ever expect," he said.

"I count it as a very, very sacred stewardship God gave me."