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87-135

Canada Seminary Opens;
Building Continues

COCHRANE, Canada (BP)--Classes started Sept. 1 at the brand-new Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary as construction work on the 149-acre campus continued.

Twenty students began work in the four introductory courses offered this fall: New Testament, Greek, systematic theology and preaching. All but one of the students are Canadians from the western provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where most Canadian Southern Baptist congregations are located.

"You are part of a historic moment for Canadian Southern Baptists," seminary President Clint Ashley told the students as they gathered on the campus, located on rolling hills near Calgary, Alberta. "You come from different walks of life, from various professional backgrounds. But all of you will go from here to share the gospel message across Canada and around the world."

Classes are being taught by Southern Baptist representatives Wayne Cook and Mike McGough, who were assigned to the seminary by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The seminary is asking the mission board to send four more teachers during the next two years. "After that we hope to be in a position to hire our own professors," said Southern Baptist representative James Teel, director of development and promotion for the seminary.

"We're still so busy with details that one has to be reminded of the historic nature of it," Teel said. "But when one savors the moment, it's impossible to describe the emotion, realizing that it's the culmination not just of three years of hard work by some of us but many years of prayer by Canadian Southern Baptists."

For now, classes are meeting in a service building as construction continues on the main academic building, which still lacks doors, carpeting, trim and exterior brick. Landscaping work also continues.

Since building began, about 250 Canadian and American construction volunteers from churches in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Texas, Florida and Georgia have come to help. Another volunteer crew from North Carolina is due in September, Teel said.

But the seminary needs more money to complete construction. Canadian Southern Baptists contribute to the seminary through their regular church offerings and are in the middle of a \$300,000 "Share the Dream" fund-raising campaign for the school. Churches have given or pledged about \$100,000 so far.

More than \$575,000 for property and construction has come from Southern Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board and individual gifts.

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17 Groups To Attend Meeting
On Global Evangelization

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9/8/87

DALLAS (BP)--Missions leaders from 17 denominations and interdenominational groups will meet Sept. 17-18 at a Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport hotel to share information about world evangelization.

R. Keith Parks of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, who issued invitations to the meeting, said he is pleased at the response, which represents almost half of the 36 groups invited.

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Parks hopes the discussion can result in some kind of networking process through which information can be shared regularly by groups that have a common interest in taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people of the world. He said he is not proposing any kind of formal organization.

In the initial letter of invitation, Parks wrote: "None of us is large enough, strong enough, wise enough to make a significant impact on the whole world. We need each other. If we can help each other have a more effective part in world evangelization, we're having a greater impact than if we lived and worked in isolation."

The missions officials, including some chief executives of organizations, will gather from around the nation for the sessions at the east tower of the Hyatt Regency DFW at the airport. The meeting will conclude with a press conference at 4 p.m. Sept. 18 in which the participants may make comments or answer questions.

Participants are J. Philip Hogan and Norman L. Correll of Springfield, Mo., Division of Foreign Missions, The Assemblies of God; William R. Bright and Carl Osterberg of San Bernardino, Calif., Campus Crusade for Christ, International; John M. Smee and Steve Weber of Kansas City, Mo., World Mission Division, Church of the Nazarene; Warren W. Webster of Wheaton, Ill., Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society; Robert H. Bowman of La Mirada, Calif., Far East Broadcasting Co., Inc.

Also Erwin H. Rempel of Newton, Kans., Commission on Overseas Mission, General Conference Mennonite Church; John A. Lapp of Akron, Pa., Mennonite Central Committee; Donald McGilchrist and Alan Andrews of Colorado Springs, Colo., The Navigators; Vinson Synan of Oklahoma City, North American Renewal Service Committee; Frederick R. Wilson and Morton S. Taylor of New York and John R. Hendrick of Austin, Texas, representing Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

And John Cumbers of Cedar Grove, N.J., SIM International (formerly known as Sudan Interior Mission); Parks and William R. O'Brien, of Richmond, Va., Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; J.W. Denny of San Antonio, Texas, Foreign Missions Department, The Church of God in Christ; Peggy Billings of New York, General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church; H. Eddie Fox of Nashville, Tenn., World Evangelism Committee, World Methodist Council; Edward R. Dayton of Monrovia, Calif., World Vision International; and David Bendor-Samuel and Steve Sheldon of Dallas, Wycliffe Bible Translators International, Inc.

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(Editor's Note: Following is the first of a four-part series on church conflict.)

Church Conflict
Called Manageable

By Jim Lowry

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NASHVILLE (BP)--A Southern Baptist church that avoids or ignores congregational conflict is permitting a potential crisis of effectiveness to encroach on its fellowship, according to a church administration specialist.

Change, which frequently results in conflict, is inevitable, said Joe Stacker, who believes nearly every conflict situation is manageable.

Stacker, director of the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said substantive and interpersonal differences that result in congregational conflict are manageable if church members will deal with each other redemptively in the spirit of Christ.

"With tolerance and redemptive release of emotions, churches can get through situations which are potentially explosive," Stacker noted. "Jesus confronted conflict in the church, and we can't totally avoid it today.

"I think baptisms would double and missions giving increase significantly if churches would learn to deal with conflict," he said. "People need to get their eyes off themselves and start doing the Great Commission.

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"Our churches spend too much time on non-biblical concerns," he said. "They lose sight of their mission and objective while alienations break down the church family relationships."

Almost any situation in a church, including growth, can result in conflict, Stacker claimed. For instance some church members do not want their churches to grow because of the changes that certainly will occur in organization and relationships.

Major or minor incidents and events can cause conflict. The addition of staff members, budget difficulties, disciplinary words directed at the child of a member, the color of the carpet or just two people sharing the same space all can cause the spark that starts the fires of conflict, he noted.

How the conflict started, what caused it and how to manage it are key questions which can result in growth and new unity or a divided congregation and broken fellowship, Stacker said.

He identified three divisions into which conflict can be classified. First, intrapersonal conflict is inside a person. If ignored or mishandled, it eventually will spill out into the life of the church.

Second, interpersonal conflict is between two people, such as when they are more worried about who will get top-billing for some project or event.

Third is substantive conflict, Stacker continued, which is a difference of opinion over ideas involving facts and values. Ironically, this is the easiest kind of conflict to solve, unless some interpersonal conflict develops out of the problem-solving process. Sometimes what appears to be a conflict over a substantive matter is a smoke screen for some personality conflict between members, he said.

"The most dangerous way to deal with conflict is to ignore it," Stacker said. "When you deny the reality of conflict, it generally deepens while going unresolved. Avoidance also is unacceptable."

A more effective way to deal with conflict is to defuse it by honestly addressing the problem, making suggestions to people who are involved and then waiting to see the reactions. Another method of dealing with conflict is confrontation, where a person in a leadership role has enough influence to mandate a decision and negotiate a conclusion.

When conflict first appears, the pastor and other church leaders should research the problem to determine the issues and who is involved, he said.

"Three common ways to deal with conflict are fright, flight and fight," Stacker explained. "Many persons either freeze in fear or run away as quickly as possible. We need to take a stand and negotiate."

"Church leaders need to realize that conflict was no stranger to Christ," he said. "We need to know how to manage conflict and live within the opportunities it brings. Successfully resolving congregational conflict can teach tolerance, redemption and release of emotion which could have exploded and injured many."

"Jesus was willing to risk because he knew the power of God was with him," he added. "We must risk like Jesus risked, to resolve conflict in churches so we can get on with resolving the conflict of sin in the world."

"Church leaders must seek the wisdom of God and redemptively risk, as the Lord did, to find solutions and reconciliation with those in conflict," he said.

"If church leaders do not seek that wisdom and take that risk, chances are that churches will never be what Jesus intended them to be as his body on earth."

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

FMB Names More Associates
In Reorganization Effort

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--As reorganization continues at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, eight people have been named to new positions.

Hal Lee, who considers his home town to be the Pascagoula-Moss Point area of Mississippi, has been named associate to the director for Europe. A missionary to France since 1962, he will continue to live in Massey, France, and work under Switzerland-based area director Keith Parker. He will relate to both the area office and missionaries in 12 European countries.

John Deal, a missionary since 1966, has been named associate area director for the Middle East and North Africa. Effective Jan. 1, 1988, he takes on the additional responsibility of associate area director for Europe. In his expanded job he will handle Richmond-based administrative responsibilities for Parker and for Dale Thorne, director for the Middle East and North Africa. Deal, who grew up in Dothan, Ala., has been administrator at the Baptist hospital in Ajloun, Jordan, since 1979.

Birmingham, Ala., native Garry Eudy has been named associate to the director for Middle America and Canada. An evangelist and student worker in Panama since 1980, he will move to Guatemala next year to work with area director Joe Bruce.

Everett Burnette, a native of Spartanburg, S.C., and missionary to France, has been named associate to the director for non-English-speaking West Africa. He and his family will move from Tours, France, where he has been director of a French language fellowship since 1984, to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, to work with Billy Bullington, director for West Africa.

A missionary since 1964, Texan Jim Houser has been named associate to the director for eastern Africa. Working under John Faulkner, director for Eastern and Southern Africa, he will act as a liaison between the area office and missionaries in six African nations. Houser has been the administrator for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Tanzania. The Dallas native and his family will move to Nairobi, Kenya.

Zeb Moss, an Aberdeen, N.C., native and missionary to southern Africa since 1959, has been named associate area director for Eastern and Southern Africa. He will handle Richmond-based administrative responsibilities for Faulkner.

In other areas of the board's work, Earl Goatcher, of Little Rock, Ark., has been named associate director for community development in human needs. In his new Richmond-based job he will help missionaries throughout the world plan rural and urban development and help put together programs to train others in development. A missionary for more than 16 years, he has been the administrator for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Thailand since 1984.

And David Coleman, who has been associate director of the board's volunteer enlistment department for the last year, has become a development officer working under Jerry Jackson, the board's vice president for development. Coleman, from Guthrie, Ky., will focus on establishing regional development councils of Baptists interested in undergirding foreign missions as well as direct the board's LIFEowment and corporate giving programs and the pooled income fund.

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

Personal Commitment To Missions
Must Be Unconditional, Prof Says

By Susan Todd

Baptist Press
9/8/87

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Each Southern Baptist's personal commitment and responsibility to tell the world about Jesus must be so unconditional that the question of risk is never asked, according to a Southern Baptist seminary missions professor.

"It's time we ask questions such as, 'Will more people be won to the Lord because of this?'" said W. Bryant Hicks, the Theron Rankin Professor of Missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

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Speaking to Woman's Missionary Union leaders at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center Aug. 22-28, Hicks told them, "If there are people in other countries who haven't heard the gospel, we are all responsible to go tell them."

If more Southern Baptists took seriously that responsibility, Hicks said, there would be no problem in reaching the world with the gospel.

"I think it is high time that we call ourselves back to the commitment that we don't ask, 'Is it safe?' but 'Is it what God wants?' The level of our commitment has become conditional," he said. "If we came to that kind of unconditional commitment, we wouldn't have a goal of 5,000 (foreign) missionaries by the year 2000, but 50,000. And, we wouldn't fall short of (mission) offering goals."

Hicks also urged the women to look beyond themselves and "lay the claim of missions" before their churches. He affirmed WMU as being the "conscience" of Southern Baptist churches.

"We must use every possible creative way to get missions before the congregation -- not just in December and March when we bring in a fireman to lay it on for 15 minutes and make announcements for 20 (minutes)," Hicks said.

Hicks cited the New Testament woman Priscilla as a model because she used opportunities in her home to host, welcome, encourage and pray with persons who came her way -- including the apostle Paul.

Hicks also asked women to consider Priscilla's willingness to risk life itself in spreading the gospel and to model her role of prayer supporter. "She risked her very neck for Paul. It wasn't just a matter of being willing to help out. She was willing to risk her very life," he said.

Hicks affirmed WMU's history of prayer support and encouraged members to set the current convention controversy in the context of prayer -- calling them to "not blast but bless."

"When we disagree with people, we need to pray for ourselves first, that we will have a right attitude in the relationship. This eliminates room for unfair criticism and anger," said Hicks.

"I would encourage you to criticize all the leaders in our convention if you agree to give equal time in prayer (for them). I invite you to criticize if you agree to this."

During WMU week at Ridgecrest, 1,942 participants gave \$3,747 to the Cooperative Program. It was the largest offering taken during summer conferences at Ridgecrest. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified, voluntary method of financing missionary, evangelistic and educational efforts worldwide.

Activities during the week centered around the theme "A Century to Celebrate, A Future to Fulfill." WMU is preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary with a Centennial Celebration May 13-14, 1988, in Richmond, Va.

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Witnessing Lifestyle
Characterizes James Rose

By Charles Willis

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9/8/87

NASHVILLE (BP)--Personal witnessing is not a once-a-week activity on a church calendar for James Rose. It is a lifestyle.

Rose, a church media library consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, is away from home about 70 percent of his work days. Weekly visitation for his church is out of the question.

"I try to stay open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and let witnessing become a lifestyle," he said of his commitment. "When I was in my 30s, the Lord really dealt with me about the ministry. I became exceedingly burdened about lost (non-Christian) persons."

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Rose, a layman at the time, was employed in an engineering office at Shawnee Steam Plant near Paducah, Ky. While a member of Harmony Baptist Church in Grahamville, he began to see the need for having a personal witness but lacked the confidence to act.

"I was frightened to think of door-to-door visitation or dealing one-on-one about how to be saved," he recalled.

Following a return to college for additional education, Rose became convinced God was calling him to preach. By that time, he was involved in personal witnessing at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

"I witness because I must," he said. "I witness because there is a real heaven to experience for eternity and a real hell to experience without Jesus.

"As I live day by day in airline terminals, restaurants, motels and barber shops, I try to live the kind of life that would open the way for a verbal witness," he said. "I make an attempt to bear my witness in a way that won't be offensive, but let the Holy Spirit convince people of their need to trust the Lord and know the same forgiveness and everlasting life I've experienced."

Rose led a shoeshine man in an Albuquerque, N.M., hotel to Christ. Likewise, he has shared his faith with people in travel-related service jobs in Georgia, Texas and South Carolina, among others. A file folder of correspondence with people he has led to Christ or continues to counsel is in his office.

Rose has used tracts that he considers particularly appropriate for the person to whom he is witnessing, and he has provided materials from local church media libraries and mailed personal Christian resources to people across the country.

"Nothing will take the place of a verbal witness," he observed, "but after some time, the use of media helps me go beyond that witness."

Rose said he tells people "in a very kind, loving, sincere way that I love them and that Jesus loves them."

"The greatest joy I have ever known, outside of my own salvation experience, is when I have seen people trust the Lord," he reflected. "The greatest burden I have is for all the missed opportunities to tell others about the Lord."

Evangelism ought to be a lifestyle, Rose declared, stressing, "It ought to be as natural to share with someone about Jesus as it is for us to tell one another what he has meant to us."

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