



# - - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 18, 1987

87-194

Malaysia Churches Closed;  
Arrested Baptist Released

N-FMB

By Michael D. Chute

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (BP)--Thirty-three Malaysian Baptist churches received orders Dec. 14 to suspend services within seven days, as Baptists in that country continue to feel repercussions from recent government enforcement of the Internal Security Act.

Sources in Malaysia say police are using zoning regulations to halt the services of 33 churches in the state of Negri Sembalan. Government officials say the sites on which the churches are meeting are not designated for religious activities. Therefore, they are said to be violating zoning codes.

However, Baptist leaders there claim some of those churches have been meeting in the same locations for more than 20 years.

In a related development, one of five Baptist leaders arrested in a nationwide sweep six weeks ago has been released from jail. Tan Bee Hwa, minister at Damasara Utama Baptist Church in Kuala Lumpur, was released at the end of November.

Four other Baptist leaders, including James Lai, remain jailed since their arrest Oct. 29. Lai, pastor of First Baptist Church of Petaling Jaya, reportedly is being held in solitary confinement. The government has allowed Lai's family to see him twice a week for about 30 minutes at a time.

Baptist leaders in Malaysia say they are not certain about the status of the other three prisoners. No formal charges have been filed against any of the Baptists arrested. The government claims the five Baptists, along with 106 other people, were arrested in an attempt to defuse racial and religious tensions between ethnic Chinese and ethnic Malays. All the arrested Baptists are ethnic Chinese.

Shortly after release, Tan spoke to a monthly Baptist co-workers meeting about her time in prison. Although her comments were guarded, she said she was treated well, fed regularly and was allowed to have her Bible and read it. But she was not allowed contact with anyone except the officials who questioned her.

Never formally charged, she was told on her release that she could go about her normal life but if she did anything wrong she would be arrested again.

Although Malaysian Baptist leaders are not certain why she was arrested, they believe someone in the housing estate where she lives gave her name to the government on a complaint form. One leader who asked for anonymity said police "were not able to discover anything in her lifestyle for them to have had reason to pick her up. She was picked up in a sweep. Somehow her name had been given, and it really was not necessary that she be picked up."

Tan reportedly was trying to begin a church in her home. For six months she has owned a home in a governmental housing project reserved for Islamic people. Two Baptist pastors also own homes in that same housing development. The three Baptists are the only ethnic Chinese, non-Islamic people in the area.

Tan reportedly was warned about trying to resume religious activities in the housing development. Specifically she was told not to attempt to start a church in her house. Religious activities outside of the Islamic faith and practice are forbidden in the area.

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Southern Baptist missionary David Watson said Tan was scheduled for home missionary appointment but the Malaysian Baptist Convention Home Mission Board is facing a financial crisis. "We're not able to appoint anyone else right now," said Watson, who is a member of the mission board.

Giving from the churches is down 22 percent in the midst of an economic slump in Malaysia, he said. The financial crisis is "affecting our mission. The Baptist work is pretty much at a standstill right now."

In spite of recent economic and religious tensions in Malaysia, missionaries point out that churches still are reporting baptisms. The seminary graduated its largest class in early December and all but one of the 27 new graduates found work in local Baptist churches. The remaining graduate chose a foreign missions option.

Even with the influx of recent graduates, Watson said, 30 percent of the Baptist churches in Malaysia still are without pastors.

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Baptist Men's Teleconference  
Grows With ACTS Connection

By Steve Barber

N- (O)  
(B'hood)

Baptist Press  
12/18/87

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The second annual Baptist Men's Teleconference will air Saturday, Jan. 9 at noon Eastern Standard Time and will be simulcast on the American Christian Television System for the first time this year, bringing the message live into private homes.

Previously, the teleconference could be viewed through Baptist Telecommunication Network outlets or on a tape-delayed basis from the sources. With the ACTS connection, the program's potential audience will grow by some 7 million cable subscribers.

About 100 BTN sites across the nation are set to carry the teleconference.

In keeping with this year's Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission theme, "Missions Involvement in Daily Life," program guests will be Baptist laymen with a tangible missions ministry both on and off the job.

They include Manuel Galindo, a Harlingen, Texas, educator; Bill Gurley, a Memphis, Tenn., businessman; Don Putnam, a Lexington, Ky., businessman; and Ted Wilson, an Indianapolis attorney. James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president, will host the hour-long program.

Viewers will be given a toll-free number allowing them to call in questions to Smith and his guests.

Although the entire Brotherhood program will be spotlighted during the broadcast, special emphasis will be given to the 1988 Home Missions Work Projects planned for the Baptist Men, Baptist Young Men, and High School Baptist Young Men organizations sponsored by the commission.

Viewers may watch the teleconference at a BTN viewing site, on ACTS in their homes, or through satellite dish connections set to Transponder 11-H, Channel 21, Spacenet 1. Viewers also may request local cable companies without ACTS to broadcast the program on a local-access channel.

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Christmas Cards Offer  
Ministry To Inmates

By Brenda J. Sanders

F- (O)  
(Mo.)

Baptist Press  
12/18/87

HAYTI, Mo. (BP)--A brightly-colored wreath of green, red, yellow and blue, and the words "Merry Christmas" adorn the cover of a special Christmas card.

Inside, "An Important Message For You" presents the plan of salvation in Christ in simple terms. Beneath is a verse: "Though I can't be with you on Christmas Day, my thoughts will be with you in every way."

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For the third consecutive year, New Madrid Baptist Association Director of Missions Bill Wehmeyer presented the cards to inmates of area jails in southeastern Missouri. The inmates send the cards to family and friends they are unable to see at Christmastime.

This year, more than 600 cards were distributed to the inmates. County sheriff's departments pay the postage for prisoners who cannot afford it themselves.

Wehmeyer first came up with the idea in 1985 when he was visiting inmates at Pemiscot County Jail. He asked some of the prisoners if they would like to have some Christmas cards to send to their families. The inmates expressed an interest, so Wehmeyer went to a local discount store and bought enough cards for each prisoner to have two. He also provided them with stamps.

The ministry was well-received by the Pemiscot County sheriff as well as the inmates.

So the following year, Wehmeyer planned to continue the Christmas card ministry. He and Frank Hadder, a member of the New Madrid Association executive board, designed a card for the inmates. It included a green Christmas tree on the cover and the plan of salvation inside.

Wehmeyer distributed 300 of the cards to inmates in three county jails: Pemiscot, New Madrid and Dunklin. This time the county sheriffs provided postage, and again the project was well-received.

This year, with 600 of the four-color cards printed, Wehmeyer has expanded his ministry to include county jails in Pemiscot, New Madrid, Scott counties in southeastern Missouri, Dyer County in Tennessee and Mississippi County in northeastern Arkansas.

"I met with my counterpart across the river in Dyersburg," Joe Naylor, director of missions for Dyer Baptist Association in Tennessee, Wehmeyer said. "We delivered 100 cards to the county sheriff of Dyer County. He was quite pleased."

Missouri county sheriffs also have been very receptive to the card ministry, Wehmeyer added.

Clyde Orton, sheriff of Pemiscot County, expressed gratitude for the project. "The inmates really appreciate it," he said. "It lets them know somebody does think about them and cares about them."

"They don't have any way to buy Christmas cards. Since it's the Christmas season, this makes them feel a little better to have something to send to their families."

Sheriff Orton noted the Christmas card ministry also opens doors for Wehmeyer to talk to the inmates. "He spends a lot of time with the inmates and here in the office," Orton said of Wehmeyer. "Because he takes such an interest in the inmates, they are more willing to talk with him on a personal level."

Wehmeyer believes the ministry also is a good way to reach out to the families of inmates: "Those cards will go into some homes that might otherwise never hear the gospel. They take the plan of salvation to families who might never darken the door of a church. It's a unique way to reach a large number of people."

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Minnesota Pastor Saws Logs  
To Awaken Non-Christians

By Elizabeth Watson

F-10  
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press  
12/18/87

BEMIDJI, Minn. (BP)--If you hear that pastor Ed Hart is sawing logs at church, don't think he's sleeping on the job.

Hart runs a volunteer sawmill to provide lumber for the construction of new church buildings in Minnesota and Wisconsin. When not splitting logs, Hart is "rightly dividing the word of God" as pastor of Ridgewood Baptist Church in Bemidji, Minn.

Hart already helped build a parsonage and two churches. With the sawmill, he will cut building costs from \$50 to \$27 per square foot. He hopes to upgrade the sawmill and cut church-building costs to \$12 per square foot.

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Hart is secretary/treasurer of the Minnesota/Wisconsin alumni association of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and second vice president of the Minnesota/Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention.

"God has given me the vision of one Southern Baptist church in each of the 20 counties in the western half of Northwood Baptist Association," Hart said. "But the only way we're going to be able to build those churches is through programs like this that make church buildings affordable."

New Baptist churches in the North Central United States must choose between a pastor and a church building, Hart said, noting, "They can't afford both."

The sawmill helps resolve the problem. And Hart hopes his church will be able to upgrade the simple mill located on 10 acres of woodland south of town.

"Right now all we've got is the work shed, our saw, kiln and plans for a bunkhouse which will house 15 to 20 volunteer workers," Hart said. "We bought a truck, but we still need a tractor, and we really need better saw equipment. The single-saw mill just doesn't produce enough."

"We're kind of on our own in this venture. The (Southern Baptist) Home Mission Board doesn't have a department that covers sawmills."

A self-professed pioneer type, Hart admits he loves the challenge. "Life would be boring if I didn't try to do something no one else had done before," he explained.

Challenges abound in the Minnesota/Wisconsin convention. The nearest church to Ridgewood Baptist is 75 miles east. The second-nearest church is 100 miles in the other direction.

"They think we're a cult in Minnesota," Hart said. "One time we took a busload of church members to a town near the Canadian border to do some mission work, and the local newspaper ran a headline on the front page the next day which read, 'Southern Cult Comes To Town.'"

Hart's goal is to prove to Minnesotans that Southern Baptists are a mainline, normal group. He works toward his goal by creating high visibility for Baptists in his community. He serves on the local United Way board and on the committee for federal food and housing programs. He regularly sends news releases to area newspapers with information about church activities, Baptist General Convention of Texas volunteers helping out with building projects, revivals and the like.

Building churches is another way of creating visibility. And Hart dreams of forming a Southern Baptist Convention "cooperative" to buy building materials for churches in bulk.

"A trainload of doorknobs is cheaper per unit," Hart said.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary

Students Involved Through  
Church, Campus Ministries

F - SSB  
By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press  
12/18/87

NASHVILLE (BP)--Involvement of Southern Baptist students in missions and evangelism increased during the 1986-87 school year, while the number of campus ministries declined, according to a report of student ministry work.

Charles Johnson, director of the student ministry department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, also cited gains in students involved in prayer emphases, missions and gifts to missions as successes on campus. Growth in the number of churches reporting student emphasis programs indicates involvement in local churches.

"We are convinced that campus and church ministries to college students are two sides of the same coin. We are having successful work in both areas," Johnson said.

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The annual report, based on information collected from state directors of student ministry, provides an indication of the various programs and emphases of student ministry. The information reported to state student ministry directors by campus ministers is based on their knowledge of student involvement in church programs. The report may differ from similar statistics from the Southern Baptist Uniform Church Letter survey, cautioned Bill Henry, student ministry department program supervisor.

The report indicates 1,026 Baptist Student Union weeks of prayer emphases were conducted during the 1986-87 school year, almost doubling the 546 reported the previous year.

There were 12,668 students involved in mission projects sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign mission boards, state student departments and local BSUs with almost \$1.6 million contributed to the state student missions projects. Those are up from 10,335 students and \$972,262 reported the previous year.

The increases in churches conducting emphasis programs for students indicates churches are catching a new vision for work with college students, Johnson said.

State directors reported 2,372 churches conducted On-to-College emphases, up from 2,351. On-to-College recognizes students before they leave for college and encourages students to continue an involvement with a church near their campus.

The report indicated 1,590 churches conducted Student Awareness Month programs -- up from 1,417. Student Awareness Month is an effort by churches to involve students from nearby campuses in their Sunday school and church activities.

Directors reported 395 churches with Crossover programs, for an increase from 227. Crossover is a program to help high school students make a transition to college church and campus programs.

The number of student baptisms registered an increase of 165, with 5,758 student baptisms reported in Southern Baptist churches during the 1986-87 academic year, compared to 5,593 the previous year.

"At a time when baptisms are declining throughout the convention, it is encouraging that student work is continuing to have a successful emphasis on evangelism," Johnson said.

The number of students involved in student ministries on campuses was 142,839, down from 152,348 the previous year. The number of students reported in Bible study through Sunday schools in local churches was 106,352, down from 136,518.

However, student involvement in Sunday school may be difficult for campus ministers to determine because that information is not reported on Uniform Church Letters or on associational reports, said Art Herron, church program development consultant.

The 1986 report marked the first time the student ministry department asked state directors for the Sunday school information. The directors have expressed concern about their ability to collect accurate information, Herron explained.

The 1987 report indicated that although 53 new campus ministries were started, the total number declined from 1,086 to 1,042.

Speaking to state student ministry directors and associates meeting in Nashville, Johnson renewed a commitment to reach a goal of 1,500 campus ministries.

"I am committed to keeping our goal of 1,500 BSUs. I won't back off of that goal," Johnson said. A target date for achievement of the goal has been moved to 1995 rather than the previous objective of 1990.

To strengthen efforts in increasing the number of campus ministries, student ministry consultant Nell Magee was reassigned earlier in 1987 to work specifically with campus ministries. In that role, Magee is working to strengthen existing student ministries and develop new ones.

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Magee pointed out the net loss of 44 campus ministries with 53 new ones established indicates 97 campus ministries were dropped during 1987. "We need to work to strengthen the smaller, struggling campus works while we are striving to start new ones," she said.

State directors cited 759 campuses as possible locations for new student ministries.

"We can comfortably reach our goal by starting work on the campuses that have been identified," Johnson told the state directors.

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Interest Surges In Religion  
While Ethics Level Declines

By Terri Lackey

N-SSB

Baptist Press  
12/18/87

NASHVILLE (BP)--At the same time Americans are experiencing a spiritual hunger and surge of interest in religion, a decline in the level of ethics is taking place, the leader of Southern Baptists' church training program reported.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department, said pastors are coming to grips with some contradictory trends in religion in America today and desiring to do something about them.

"Church training has geared up to be a strong right arm and ally of pastors in meeting some of their most pressing needs," Edgemon reported during annual church training planning meetings with state Baptist convention leaders in Nashville.

According to a multi-sourced list of trends compiled by the church training department: "The No. 1 trend of religion in America is the spiritual hunger for depth and meaning in the lives of Christians. But at the same time, the level of ethics is declining. Little difference is found in the ethical views and behaviors of those who go to church and those who don't."

Edgemon said many churches are guilty of lowering the standards of Christianity by not teaching biblical doctrines and Baptist heritage: "We are no longer weighing our values by the word of God, but by trends in society. We must come back to weighing our values by the teaching of the word, and that's the task of church training."

Meanwhile, Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, was cited as the 1987 Friend of Church Training.

A frequent keynote speaker at summer church training department leadership conferences, Leavell wrote the 1984 church training doctrine study book on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

A Tennessee native, Leavell said he is a strong believer in church training: "I have been all my life. I was in it when it was called BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union).

"I've been to preachers' meetings where somebody would say, 'Why don't we just do away with church training?' Well, if we did away with it, we would just have to organize something just like it, so we might as well keep it and go with it. We're in the mess we're in in the Southern Baptist Convention today because we as Baptists don't know who we are."

Edgemon said he believes the church training department's annual doctrine study emphasis is increasingly enlightening Baptists as to what their denomination believes.

"There was a 35 percent increase in study course awards for the doctrine of prayer (the 1987 doctrinal emphasis)," he said. "And only about one-half of those who take the course send in and ask for their awards."

Lay Institute for Equipping courses such as MasterLife, MasterDesign, DecisionTime, Parenting by Grace, Covenant Marriage and PrayerLife (due out in January) encourage Baptists to probe the teachings of the Bible, he added.

The 1988 Baptist Doctrine Study topic, the priesthood of believers, supports the belief that "the Christian family is a family of priests where we are called and commissioned for ministry," he said.

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The church training department also plans to support the pastor's need for training church members in ethics, discipleship and heritage with its back-to-basics curriculum, due out in October 1988, he added.

A Call to Baptist Basics is a three-year plan of study designed to call churches back to a study of the basics of Baptist doctrine and heritage. The units of study include doctrine, history, ethics, polity and discipleship.

But churches must have an audience to effectively reach their members with the doctrines of the Bible, Edgemon said.

Almost 50 percent of the 14.6 million members of Southern Baptist churches are inactive, of which 20 percent are resident members. The other 30 percent have moved away from the area of the church, but remain on the rolls, he said.

Through the use of the new church training Ingathering equipping center module, Edgemon said, churches may gain back many of the almost 3 million resident inactive members.

About 2,400 modules have been sold since April 1, when Ingathering: Reclaiming Inactive Church Members was released, Edgemon said.

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Southwestern Guest Professor  
Speaks From Baptist Tradition

By Scott Collins

F-10  
(SUBTS)

Baptist Press  
12/18/87

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--When guest professor Sam Fadeji talks to his classes at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he draws on a national history almost as old as the Southern Baptist Convention's.

In 1850, as the Southern Baptist Convention celebrated its fifth anniversary, missionary Thomas Bowen landed in Nigeria, making it the SBC's third mission field. Missionaries were already serving in China and Liberia.

Today more than 1 million people worship in 4,500 Nigerian Baptist churches each Sunday. In addition, the Nigerian Baptist Convention sponsors its own seminary and 40 home missionaries.

Fadeji, professor of Old Testament at Nigerian Baptist Seminary, is a product of the mission work begun by Bowen. As national guest professor at Southwestern this fall, Fadeji speaks with authority about the importance of world missions.

Fadeji's faith was nurtured in a strong Baptist home. His father, a carpenter, served 36 years as a Baptist pastor in three small Nigerian villages. The elder Fadeji led his son to faith in Christ and taught him "the rudiments of the faith."

Sitting in his office at Southwestern, Fadeji speaks fondly of his father, who at 78 still rides his bicycle to minister in his tiny village.

"Islam is the real threat (in Nigeria) today," Fadeji says. A "tug of war" between Islam and Christianity makes it difficult for missionaries to live in Nigeria today, he adds. But Christian missionaries must also deal with traditional African religions that tempt Christians during personal trials.

These experiences illustrate for Fadeji the importance of the Bible over culture in the Christian faith. "We must not mix the eternal truths with the forms in which they are presented," he says. "The Bible must be our primary source for all our theology, evangelism and missions."

Through emphasis on the Bible and evangelism, Baptists have laid a firm foundation in Nigeria, Fadeji adds. But that does not mean missionaries are no longer needed.

On the contrary, Fadeji says Nigeria stills needs the support of Southern Baptists, especially in technical areas such as medicine, agriculture and theological education.

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Fadeji tells his students at Southwestern, "If God calls you to a mission field, there is a place of service, and missionaries are still needed." But he also cautions them to remember they work in partnership with national Baptist leaders.

Contextualization, or presenting the gospel with an understanding of the culture, is another major lesson Fadeji teaches, noting this is one of the most important challenges of African Christians today.

With degrees from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Fadeji moves comfortably among his peers on the Southwestern faculty. And he expresses his concerns that Southern Baptists maintain their commitment to missions.

"Keep on with Bold Mission Thrust," the convention's plan to present the gospel to the whole by the year 2000, he says. "It's one of the best visions of our century. Southern Baptists should pursue it vigorously from all approaches."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary

Seminarian Practices  
Ministry In 'Quarter'

By Breena Kent Paine

F-10  
(NOBTS)

Baptist Press  
12/18/87

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Lary Burton was handing out gospel tracts in New Orleans' French Quarter when he noticed a girl, about two blocks away, walking toward him.

"I looked at her, and she caught my eye, and I kept looking at her," said Burton. "I could tell she was a street person.

"When she got to me, she said, 'Do you want something?'

"I said, 'Yes, I want something. I want you to take this tract, and I want you to read it.'" A few moments later, he looked back. She was sitting on a curb, oblivious to the crowd around her, reading the tract.

"That's when I saw the importance of the tract ministry," said Burton, who knows most of the tracts he hands out end up on the street. "Twenty may be thrown in a corner, but one is read. That one plants the seed. And that's what we're called to do."

But passing out tracts is only one of the ways the Birmingham, Ala., native "plants seeds" in the Quarter. Often, he will sit on a park bench in Jackson Square next to a stranger and strike up a conversation. Many of the people he talks to do not have a place to stay or food to eat. Burton will direct them to one of the Baptist centers nearby that can meet their needs.

"I talk to runaways, prostitutes, regular people who because of their circumstance don't have a place to stay, tourists, people who work in the Quarter," he explained. "I stop by and visit some of them while they're working, just to let them know they're thought about."

A doctor of theology student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Burton finds unique ways of establishing relationships with locals in the city's historic district.

For instance, Burton made friends with a bookstore owner in the Quarter by coming into his store every week to read a book until he finished it.

"It was a year before he even approached the subject of religion," Burton said. The store owner, who was dissatisfied with his own religion, discussed with Burton the differences between their churches. Soon afterwards, the store owner called him because he wanted to talk. That evening, he accepted Christ.

"People in the Quarter need the Lord just as much as anybody does before they get saved," said Burton, who tries to go to the Quarter every week to share Christ.

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"Ministerial students who come to the seminary and don't get active in the local church and in their witnessing life while they're here because they have to study will find it hard when they get out in their churches after graduation to get out of their study to witness," said Burton, who is minister of music at Elysian Fields Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Burton feels his studies have enriched his ability to minister. The seminary "has supplied me with a lot of resources which I would not have known were available had I not come to seminary," he said.

A contract teacher in New Orleans' School of Christian Training and an assistant to Jimmy Dukes, assistant professor of New Testament, he said, "Since I want to be a teacher, I've been able to look at the examples of the professors, and to gain insight from them, not only in the vast amount of knowledge they have, but in teaching techniques as well."

But most of all, Burton is glad "there are plenty of opportunities to minister in the city."

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(BP) photos available upon request from New Orleans Seminary

Southwestern Students Take  
Missions To Loving Church

By Scott Collins

F-10  
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press  
12/18/87

LOVING, Texas (BP)--The folks in tiny Loving, Texas, will earn their name this Christmas with gifts to Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

The 50-member congregation plans to raise \$1,500.

That figure may not sound high for some churches, but Loving is a small community nestled in the heart of oil country. And the members at the local Baptist church have felt the effects of slumping oil prices.

Pastor Tim Tidenburg, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said no one knows how many people live in Loving. "All they know is that there are 78 water meters," he said.

But this fall, the members of the Loving church had their vision of the world expanded when they hosted more than a dozen missionaries' children and two-year journeymen missionaries.

Tidenburg, whose parents are missionaries to Africa, knew the church could not afford to bring in a speaker from a long distance. So he invited a group of former journeymen and missionary kids.

Most of the group are students at Southwestern, and nearly all of them are foreign mission volunteers. They brought with them a variety of items and slides showing their countries of service.

But the biggest hit of the weekend was an international dinner. The missionary guests prepared food from the various countries and served it to the members of the church.

As the smells of cooked bananas blended with porridge, chicken curry and other exotic dishes, church members sat across the tables from their missionary guests and talked about world needs.

"Time went by so quickly that we wanted more time to spend with these people," said Edith Hearne, a member of the church.

Karen Park, a staff member in the student division at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said seminary students often prove effective in promoting missions, especially when they have grown up or served short-term assignments on the mission field.

"We feel strongly that journeymen and missionary kids are able to promote missions in a way that is meaningful to young people especially," Park said. "And we also see a lot of response in churches."

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And while the church members were learning more about missions overseas, Tidenburg said they also were opening their pocketbooks and wallets to support Southern Baptist work.

The treasurer reported the church was "well on its way" to meeting the \$1,500 Lottie Moon goal after just the first day. When they reach the goal, members of the Loving church will have given an average of \$30 per member, more than six times the convention-wide average of \$4.74 per member.

Church members also are planning other ways for mission involvement, Tidenburg said. At the Sunday night service after the missionaries had left, members pledged to become involved in partnership mission work.

And according to Tidenburg, the weekend focusing on foreign missions helped church members see the need for mission action in Loving. "The main thing it did was to create an awareness for missions around the world," Tidenburg said.

Through the influence of a group of seminary students, Loving Baptist Church may become known for its name.