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Parks calls 70-30 ratio effort
to speed up world evangelization

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The 10-year plan to have 70 percent of Southern Baptist missionaries giving more than half their time to evangelistic outreach and church planting is part of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's effort to escalate the rate of reaching the world for Christ, President R. Keith Parks said July 26.

It is one of a number of goals formulated by the new staff Global Strategy Group after input from missionaries and others and was recommended to the board from staff, Parks said. It is not intended to be an ultimatum that could force some missionaries to retrain or resign, as an article in the July 23 Washington Post indicated, he explained.

The Post article stated: "Under the new plan, hundreds of doctors, nurses, teachers, veterinarians, administrators and agriculturists must retrain or resign. Medical missionaries and other professionals attending the meeting here (in Glorieta, N.M.) expressed doubt that they can do justice to their professional service work on a less than half-time basis." The article also said board trustees "ordered a major 'reconfiguration' of its missionary work in favor of intensified soul-winning efforts."

Parks said the 70-30 ratio is part of an effort to set up some specific long-range goals rather than just saying "everybody ought to be involved in evangelistic outreach."

"I've never heard it said, never intended to even imply, that we'd have hundreds of people who are resigning," he said. "We have said that we will offer retraining to help emphasize the evangelistic outreach. But actually this is the basic purpose we've had all along."

The board is not trying to take someone with one specialty and retrain that person to be something else, Parks emphasized. Instead, he explained, the board wants to offer training in witnessing for Christ and in church-starting to missionaries who feel they need to sharpen their skills in these areas.

In some parts of the world, such as the Middle East, a 70-30 ratio may not be possible because open, aggressive evangelism is not possible, he noted.

He also pointed out that some doctors, agriculturists and other lay people on the missionary force already are giving significant percentages of their time to direct evangelism and starting churches. He said these are "excellent models of what we're talking about and would be used as a model to encourage others to have a stronger evangelistic outreach."

The board will continue to send people as missionaries in a variety of job assignments, Parks said. He added: "But it is true we hope to intensify the evangelistic outreach. It's one part of the whole effort of trying to escalate the rate at which we are reaching the world for Christ."

Under the 70-30 plan, the other 30 percent would do tasks essential to balance and enhance the work of missionaries giving 50 percent or more of their time to direct evangelism, trustees were told during a July dialogue session.

The 70-30 ratio for use of missionary personnel is one of several major goals that can move the Foreign Mission Board toward achieving Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention's effort to do its part in sharing the gospel with all people of the world by the year 2000, Parks said.

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Other related goals call for:

-- Deliberate plans to reach out to parts of the world where missionaries cannot serve or where the board has not been sending missionaries.

-- Evaluation by individual missions, the groups of missionaries in a country, to see whether existing mission institutions that were started early on still are vital to the work there or perhaps are no longer as effective or as needed and could be phased out. Another option would be for national conventions to take over such institutions.

-- Study of whether an administrative or institutional job now being done by a missionary could be done equally well or better by a national Baptist, enabling missionaries "to go on out and do the evangelistic outreach that many of them would like to do." Parks explained that the board is trying to encourage "deliberate, definite plans for all this to take place."

All of these factors "have to fit together hand in glove" as part of the board's over-all strategy, he said. With limited personnel and financial resources, the board must make wise and strategic use of the resources it has if it is going to "significantly impact the whole world."

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European Baptists worried
about seminary's future

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RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP)--Southern Baptists are not the only people concerned about the future of the struggling Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

European Baptist theologians say Baptist life on the continent without the seminary is unthinkable.

More than 50 theologians met at the seminary in late June for a Baptist theological teachers' conference. After hearing a report on the seminary's continuing financial problems, they unanimously adopted a resolution expressing sympathy and alarm at the school's circumstances.

"We strongly affirm the necessity of Ruschlikon's continued existence," they said, calling the seminary "without doubt the contribution which has been most valued" among Southern Baptists' many initiatives in Europe. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board started the seminary in 1949.

"Theological education at Ruschlikon is not an end in itself, but seeks to equip men and women to mobilize the churches of Europe with a view to winning the lost to Christ," the theologians declared. "Europe is in need of the gospel more than ever."

The seminary will run a budget deficit of about \$200,000 for 1988, needs about \$1 million in building repairs and is operating with a skeleton staff. The drop in the U.S. dollar's value in Europe accounts for most of the institution's money problems. The Foreign Mission Board funds between 30 percent and 40 percent of the seminary budget, and the dollar's value against the Swiss franc has fallen by 40 percent in the last three years.

The seminary is considering cost-saving options, including selling its highly valuable property and campus near Zurich and moving to a more inexpensive area in Switzerland or elsewhere in Europe. The Foreign Mission Board holds deed to the 10-acre property.

The theologians urged seminary leaders not to move the school, noting its current home is of "great symbolic worth ... in the cradle of Anabaptist history." Switzerland's historic neutrality, they pointed out, also enables the seminary to attract Baptists from East and West.

They also appealed for a return to the former trustee system that governed the seminary before 1978. The trustee board consisted of representatives from Baptist seminaries and unions throughout Europe. The current governing body is a smaller five-member executive board of European and Southern Baptist mission board representatives.

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The old trustee board provided a strong link between Ruschlikon and other European Baptist seminaries, said the resolution. "With the new structure, this relationship has been lost with the result that Ruschlikon has become somewhat isolated from European Baptist theological education ... (and) is in danger of being marginalized," it noted.

Isam Ballenger, Foreign Mission Board vice president for Europe and a former president of the seminary, said the trustee system was changed a decade ago for financial reasons. "It was very expensive to bring the representatives to Ruschlikon" from all over Europe for every trustee meeting, he said. "But we realized we lost something valuable when they stopped coming. Ruschlikon does need broader contact with European Baptists."

Many of the theologians at the June conference had not had a chance to visit the seminary in several years and feel detached from it, Ballenger said: "Now as Ruschlikon faces some problems, I think they would like to rally around. But they can't rally around something which has grown to be a stranger to them. They don't want it to be a stranger. I think there's a sincere desire to give input."

The seminary executive board also needs greater communication with other Baptist educators in such areas as curriculum development, he added. Possibilities for increasing contact and interchange include a board of visitors or similar body of European Baptists who could be sent to Ruschlikon periodically by their national unions.

Ballenger was asked if the European Baptists fear that the Southern Baptist Conventions's theological battles eventually will be fought at Ruschlikon. "I don't think we can put words in their mouth, but yes, they are concerned about the controversy," he answered. "They would prefer that it not come to Europe. They represent a rather wide span of theological positions."

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Church must know
people it reaches

Baptist Press
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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Southern Baptist churches are trying to reach people without knowing who they are or why they may not be interested in what the churches have to offer, according to a church growth consultant.

When a church understands who is in the community and what their needs are, it can more effectively attract them, said Jerri Herring, growth consultant in the Sunday school division at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Sixty-seven percent of Americans are not members of any church, Herring told Sunday School general officers attending one of three Sunday School Leadership Conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"Most of us are trying to reach second-generation non-Christians," she said.

Second-generation non-Christians did not grow up attending church and do not understand why they need church if their parents got along fine without it, Herring pointed out.

She urged leaders to obtain demographic information about their communities from the local Chamber of Commerce, planning commission and government agencies.

A review of the community will help the church determine population shifts, how neighborhoods have changed and what it should be offering to meet the needs of the community, said Herring.

Because of the increasing median age of the nation's population, churches may find that their communities also are older and needs exist for a ministry with senior adults, she said.

With the median age now over 30, more than 68 percent of the U.S. population is in adult age groups. Less than 20 percent of the population is in children's and youth age groups, with only about 12 percent in the preschool age groups.

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Along with a shift in age levels of the U.S. population has come a change in traditional work schedules and leisure time planning, Herring noted. "If you are serious about Bible study and outreach, consider some other times for Bible study besides Sunday morning," she said.

Identifying the needs of the community will help the church determine where and when Bible study might be needed other than the traditional Sunday morning time.

Once the Sunday school begins to enroll people, it must then be involved in follow up and ministry. "Unless we do some follow up when we enroll people, they will not become involved," Herring said.

"No longer can we get by only with the open enrollment plan of enrolling anybody, anytime, anywhere if they are willing," she said. "We also must assimilate them into the Sunday school for them to know what it is and how they can become involved."

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College president says
students self-centered

By Tim Fields

Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE (BP)--College students are becoming increasingly more self-centered and their concerns about life reflect attitudes that border on selfishness and greed, a Southern Baptist college president warned.

"The single most important truth about college students today is their overriding concern that education is a means to a better job and not an end in itself," Cordell Maddox, president of Carson-Newman College, told campus ministers attending a Southern Baptist Education Commission workshop in Nashville.

"Sadly, this renewed interest in careerism has resulted in a decline in intellectualism," he said. "Consequently more and more students are avoiding the liberal arts and seem unimpressed with the age-old argument about the importance of a liberal education for both career and personal well-being."

College students seem obsessively driven by concerns about money, social status and personal comfort, he said, noting, "Also they are troubled about the future and worry about such things as obtaining a good job, the capacity to earn a living, reaching a standard of living equivalent to their parents' and being able to afford a family."

Recent surveys show other top concerns of students include the long-term value of their college degree, the accessibility and interest of the faculty and the impact of drugs and alcohol on students.

"Concerns about the future and the ability to secure a good job are real in the minds of students," he said. "Some way must be found to propel them beyond the narrow view of job preparation and convince them that there will always be a great demand and rewards for those who are trained to think, to solve problems and to communicate effectively. And that is the foundation of a liberal arts education.

"The concerns, attitudes and values, or lack of values, of students today leave me with an uneasy feeling. The trend toward self-interest is disturbing."

Conspicuously absent from the concerns and goals of students are such social concerns as world peace and nuclear proliferation, increasing disparity between the haves and have nots, service to mankind, human rights, the AIDS epidemic and the spreading of the gospel, he said.

But Baptist colleges are in a unique position to meet the needs of a changing student population, he said: "We have the mission, the caring, the Christian faculty, the ideal size, the missions programs, and the liberal arts background with its basis in humanities and arts and sciences. We are in a strategic position."

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Koreans successful
in missions trip

By Eric Miller

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A group of 16 Korean Baptists from Texas prepared for a mission trip to a Central American country like they were training for a marathon.

And their preparation paid off. The Koreans led 130 people to faith in Christ during two weeks of preaching, singing and sharing testimonies in prisons, hospitals, churches and at sports activities in Belize.

The team of young adults from Korean First Baptist Church in Dallas met three hours every Sunday afternoon for seven weeks to prepare for the June trip, said Tim Hyun-Mo Lee, education minister at the church.

The Dallas group prepared for their trip by sharing Christian testimonies and examining ways of telling people about Christ, using gospel tracts, following up with new believers and conducting outdoor evangelistic meetings.

A half-hour prayer meeting followed each training session, Lee said. Church members had gathered on Friday nights for seven weeks, praying about the proposed trip, before the team applied or had personal interviews. A commissioning service and a day of fasting and prayer preceded the trip.

Two hours after their plane landed, the team hit the streets. Surrounded by downtown beer halls, the team sang, introduced each other, did tricks with ropes, gave testimonies, performed a skit and preached. Ten from that audience made professions of faith in Christ, Lee said.

The Koreans happened upon students playing basketball at Belize Technical College and spotted a witnessing opportunity. They lost the game but won several of their opponents to Christ through testimonies and one-on-one witnessing. Two days of basketball and volleyball netted 10 new believers.

Before the team left, about 20 of the 130 new believers enrolled in churches.

Jerry DeOliveira, ethnic relations consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who worked with the group in making trip arrangements, said he was impressed with their preparation. He believes their success is due to prayer.

He also was impressed that the Koreans worked mostly with blacks in Belize. "Traditionally, the ethnic churches have been concerned about their own kind," he explained.

"I really believe that the future of our Southern Baptist foreign missions depends a lot on our ethnics," said Brazilian-born DeOliveira, noting, obtaining visas to some countries has been a problem for missionaries.

"It's much easier for a Rodriguez to get a visa to Venezuela than for a Smith to get one there," DeOliveira noted. Then, too, Hispanics going to Latin America, even on a short-term volunteer basis, have less of a culture and language barrier than a typical missionary, he said.

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Hustad displays
musical versatility

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press
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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--If Donald Hustad were to show his true colors as a musician, he would project the varied hues of a brilliant rainbow.

In a career has spanning more than 40 years, Hustad's contributions to church music have been multiple. His expertise is acknowledged in such areas as performance, worship leadership, music education, composing and hymnology.

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Hustad, senior professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has performed before crowds of thousands, written and spoken widely on the role of music in worship, authored numerous compositions, edited eight hymnals and trained hundreds of church musicians.

In the classroom, the Minnesota native has stressed the importance of music as a means of worship. "In local church worship, music and the musicians should be, in the words of Luther, 'the handmaiden of theology and worship,'" says Hustad, who has taught at Southern for 22 years. "The music the musician prepares should fit hand-in-glove within the worship service in which it appears."

Music, he emphasizes, is not preparation for worship but is an element of worship. "It is not performance but another way of worshipping," he says.

Hustad also notes a distinct difference between music in a worship service and music in an evangelistic crusade. He explains that in an evangelistic crusade, the emphasis for the musician is on attracting people to the crusade and supporting the work of the evangelist. "The musician confirms the message of the evangelist by singing it," he says.

Although Hustad has gained competence in several facets of music, his major energies have been devoted to performance and education.

"Throughout my lifetime, I have been pulled (between education and performance), but I've tried to keep both aspects of my work going and I have kept myself involved in both," he says.

Perhaps Hustad's greatest visibility as a performer was during the 1960s, when he was a full-time crusade organist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Hustad joined the Graham team in 1961 as the regular crusade organist. Two years later he resigned his duties as director of Moody Bible Institute's sacred music department to devote full attention to his responsibilities with the Graham organization.

The move, however, was intentionally temporary. "I knew it was just a short-term hiatus from my calling into church music education," he recalls.

Hustad's association with Graham goes back to the 1940s. While working as a staff musician at WMBI Radio, a Chicago station owned by Moody, Hustad met Graham "when he was a young Baptist pastor" and George Beverly Shea, who would later become a featured soloist in the Graham crusades.

During his radio days in Chicago, Hustad, a graduate of John Fletcher College, also pursued a master's degree in music at Northwestern University.

After completing the degree, he began his career as a music educator. He taught for three years at Olivet College in Kankakee, Ill., and later moved to Moody, where he directed the sacred music department from 1950 to 1963. While at Moody, Hustad completed requirements for a doctoral degree in church music at Northwestern.

As an organist with the Graham team, Hustad played before crowds of thousands in crusades all over the world. Although he believed the ministry of the evangelistic team was important work, he longed to return to his primary calling of church music education.

His opportunity came in 1966, when he accepted an offer to join the faculty of Southern Seminary. In 1975, he was named V.V. Cooke professor of organ, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. He still teaches on a part-time basis as a senior professor.

Hustad continues to be in demand across the nation as a performer and an educator. He is invited to give organ recitals and to play at organ dedications. He often also serves as a workshop leader, lecturer and guest conductor.

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