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March 22, 1989

N- (CO)  
(SEED)

89-46

Seminary extension workshop  
highlights new approaches

By Lee Hollaway

NASHVILLE (BP)--New courses and new approaches to ministry training were featured in a workshop for Southern Baptist state Seminary Extension leaders in Nashville.

A program that will provide ministerial learning experiences for students attending non-Baptist colleges was previewed by Doran C. McCarty, executive director of the Southern Baptist Seminary External Education Division.

"Young people committed to vocational ministry receive help and guidance if they attend a Baptist school, but more than 60 percent of those enrolled in our six seminaries studied at non-Baptist colleges or universities," McCarty pointed out. "What kind of preparation did they receive?"

The Barnabas Program, when it is in place, will seek to address this concern. It will begin this fall with two pilot locations, with six additional pilots planned for the fall of 1990, McCarty said. The program will be introduced more generally in 1991 or 1992.

The Barnabas Program is being developed by the Seminary External Education Division, the student ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the in-service guidance program of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The program, designed to provide undergraduate background for seminary study, will involve directors of Baptist student ministries at non-Baptist schools in helping students gain basic biblical and theological training through the study of Seminary Extension courses. They also will seek to encourage supervised ministry experiences by matching the students with mentors who are experienced in ministry.

Workshop participants also learned that nine new courses are scheduled for release by the Seminary Extension Department over the next 15 months, in addition to two courses which have just become available.

One of the new courses, "Ministry in a Corrections Facility," was reviewed by Bill Donovan, director of institutional and business/industrial chaplaincy for the Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division.

"This is the first material I know of that Southern Baptists have produced to teach people how to do prison ministry," Donovan said.

The course will fill a tremendous need in the convention as it helps prepare volunteers for ministry in jail and prisons, he said: "Untrained volunteers can be a disaster for inmates, the prison chaplain, and the institution. Every student will actually spend time working within a corrections facility before he or she completes the course, being trained by someone who has been there, who knows what it's all about."

Also introduced during the workshop was a new diploma plan which will allow Seminary Extension students to earn a diploma from one of the Southern Baptist seminaries.

Jack Cunningham, director of the division's seminary extension department, explained that the new plan would require the completion of 64 semester hours. In most cases this would involve at least 32 different courses. Up to one-half of these credits could be earned through correspondence study.

"We believe that persons who are unable to attend a residential seminary program will find this new diploma program to be an attractive alternative for getting some important ministry training," said Cunningham. "At the same time, our existing plans for diploma conferred by the division will remain in place, too."

McCarty also reported on the development of the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry, which he coordinates. First classes are tentatively set to begin this fall in Pittsburgh and Boston. The emphasis of this new effort in the northeastern United States is to be on field ministry and contextualized education, he said.

"We don't want people to think we are a seventh Southern Baptist seminary," he emphasized. "We are not setting out to produce theologians, but ministers in the Northeast to serve in the Northeast."

Thirteen state Baptist conventions were represented at the three-day workshop.

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Stewardship Commission  
gets report, sets budget

By James H. Cox

N- (O)  
(K.Y.)

Baptist Press  
3/22/89

MORRISTOWN, Tenn.(BP)--The Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission received the results of a three-year research program, adopted a new budget and elected officers during its annual meeting March 14-15 in Morristown, Tenn.

The proposed 1989-90 budget is \$2,393,700, an increase of \$65,750 over the current total. Commissioners requested a 1990-91 allocation of \$550,000 from the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget, up from \$480,395 anticipated in the 1989-90 budget.

The stewardship research program was conducted by Montgomery Research Consultants of Atlanta. It examined Southern Baptist patterns and perceptions of giving.

The proposed annual marketing plan is "designed for integration" with the SBC Planned Growth in Giving stewardship campaign, according to an "executive summary" of the 488-page report that details the plan. The plan designates state stewardship directors as its facilitators, with the commission responsible for development of "stewardship standards and guidelines."

"Program activities will emphasize a personal, year-round stewardship commitment which is designed to increase the level of conscious awareness and help to prepare church members to assume future stewardship positions," the executive summary says.

The marketing plan lists a variety of program components, or "specific tasks to encourage a renewed commitment to stewardship development" and promotion of the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget "on the part of pastors and the laity." Program components include:

- "Ask every church to prepare an annual budget.
- "Adopt an annual overall stewardship and Cooperative Program promotion plan which will centralize attention and concentrate efforts toward a common objective.
- "Select core materials to support stewardship and Cooperative Program education, which can be distributed economically to all churches in the denomination.
- "Ask church leaders to develop a stewardship inventory" to create a "stewardship profile, making explicit (which) segments of the membership to target for specific stewardship appeals."
- "Form teams of stewardship and Cooperative Program advisers" to train church leaders in "stewardship development and Cooperative Program promotion."
- "Suggest guidelines and study units" to "stimulate church training and Sunday school classes to give more continuous attention to overall individual and cooperative stewardship concerns."

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-- "Encourage pastors to incorporate brief stewardship ideas in messages from the pulpit and in newsletters.

-- "Encourage seminaries to include stewardship and Cooperative Program education in the ongoing curricula.

-- "Develop special seminar programs to train church leaders for their responsibilities in stewardship development and Cooperative Program promotion.

-- "Allow, to the degree feasible, state (stewardship) directors to have stewardship development or Cooperative Program promotion as their primary function.

-- "Define the role of tithing ... for all Southern Baptists. Support of the tithe should be an accepted responsibility of all church leaders.

-- "Communicate the work and accomplishments of missionaries to all churches in easy-to-understand materials, describing the Cooperative Program and its efforts.

-- "Emphasize volunteer activities to produce a higher level of commitment to total church life -- including stewardship.

-- "Create higher visibility for the Stewardship Commission in order to expand awareness and recognition of its role ... in fostering stewardship development and Cooperative Program promotion.

-- "Recognize that the best opportunity for raising the level of stewardship commitment is through interpretation of the scriptural teachings which are the cornerstone of understanding the Christian commitment to stewardship."

In other business, commissioners re-elected John Wallace, a Morristown businessman, to a second one-year term as chairman. Other officers are Gary D. Collins, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Foundation, in Jefferson City, vice chairman; and Dan T. Stowe, a dentist from Mechanicsburg, Ohio, secretary.

The commission endorsed a recommendation calling for a study of the feasibility of providing stewardship and fund-raising materials for ethnic Southern Baptists. That study will be begun by the commission's executive committee in conjunction with staff members.

Commissioners also adopted a bylaw change allowing its immediate past chairman to remain on its executive committee. They set next year's meeting for March 15-16 in Nashville.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Stewardship Commission

GBC urges tighter  
controls for Mercer

By Audrey Post

N-C  
Baptist Press  
3/22/89

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention committee studying Mercer University's financial problems has called for tighter fiscal controls and for one-third of the university's trustees to be nominated by the convention.

The committee, which met in mid-March, concluded Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey had made "no planned, designed or contrived effort ... to hide the deficit of funds from the trustees, but deficits were recorded in the university plant fund in such a way as not to be readily discerned."

Mercer is a Georgia Baptist school with campuses in Macon and Atlanta and centers throughout the state.

The GBC is not the only organization investigating Mercer. The Internal Revenue Service apparently is examining the university's finances, in addition to studies by the Georgia secretary of state's office and the federal Securities and Exchange Commission.

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The Georgia Baptist study committee was appointed in December, two weeks after Godsey said Mercer overshot its spending goals by \$16 million during the past five budget years.

A portion of that, \$5.2 million, was covered by a one-time draw-down of capital gains from the endowment, an emergency action approved by the trustees in 1987. The other \$10.8 million in accumulated deficits was compensated with short-term loans.

Mercer's total short-term debt was \$14 million in December. The trustees were aware of only \$6.7 million of that total before Godsey drew their attention to the additional debt in their December meeting, he said.

The GBC contributes about \$3 million annually to Mercer's budget. In preparing its preliminary report, the GBC committee met with a committee of seven members of Mercer's board of trustees, as well as with Godsey. The committee's final report is expected in September.

James Bruner, Godsey's assistant -- who along with Godsey attended the GBC executive committee meeting where the report was presented -- said both he and Godsey were pleased.

"It was probably the most congenial executive committee meeting I've ever been to," Bruner said. "The committee did ample research, and it was clear that everyone involved has the best interests of Mercer at heart."

In addition to concluding that Godsey had not tried to hide the mounting deficit from trustees, the committee noted that Mercer's trustees have taken steps to reduce the deficit; that no money has been borrowed from endowment-fund principal, only from interest; and that "no evidence was found to contradict the trustees' statement that the basic financial strength of the university is sound."

The committee also criticized Godsey and other administrators for failing to highlight the growing deficit; for failing to use modern accounting procedures; and for making too many financial decisions based on speculation of forthcoming funds.

Mercer's trustees were criticized for their role in financial decisions based on speculation.

In order for one-third of Mercer's trustees to be nominated by the GBC, as recommended by the committee, the charter of the university would have to be changed. The university currently has a self-perpetuating board. The committee urged that one-third of the trustees be nominated by alumni and one-third by trustees.

The report also noted that Godsey had stated that he was committed to a continued relationship between the university and the GBC. "On the basis of this strong statement," the committee recommended that Godsey work "in creative and compassionate ways" to restore the trust between the administration and the liberal arts faculties in Macon and Atlanta.

It also suggested that Godsey work to enhance relations with Georgia Baptists, that he ensure his own and the trustees' direct involvement in the management of the university finances, and that he instruct the auditing firm to make a copy of the auditor's management statement available to the GBC's administration committee.

"In light of the responsibility of treating the distribution of Cooperative Program (convention unified budget) funds with the highest integrity," the report said, "Dr. Godsey and the university administration are encouraged to recognize accountability to all Georgia Baptist contributors to the Cooperative Program."

Regarding the Internal Revenue Service investigation, three people familiar with Mercer finances told the Macon Telegraph and News that they have been interviewed by investigators with the IRS' criminal division.

University officials said the IRS completed a routine audit in early March, and that audit was not related to the deficit revealed in December.

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"Mercer's IRS audit was a routine audit for tax-exempt organizations," said university counsel Corinne Haupt. "Mercer's audit proceeded smoothly and routinely."

An IRS investigator based in Macon refused to confirm or deny any such investigation. Asked if criminal investigation is part of a normal audit of a tax-exempt organization, investigator Wayne Downs said: "A criminal investigation is not routine. As a matter of procedure, they could call us in based on the findings" of a routine audit.

In cases where criminal investigations produce evidence of wrongdoing, the IRS recommends prosecution in U.S. district court. Sources said U.S. Attorney Edgar W. Ennis Jr. has been briefed on the Mercer case. Ennis was traveling and unavailable for comment.

Mercer officials reported that the inquiry by the Georgia secretary of state's securities division into a 1985 bond issue has been closed. That office was investigating whether the lead underwriters for the \$41 million bond issue had been given sufficient and accurate information about Mercer's finances.

In a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission investigator who also is looking into the bond issue, the state investigator concluded that "proper disclosure was made, and the media coverage of the 'incurred debt' of the university had no relationship to the bond program."

In yet another Mercer matter, the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts asked James C. Coomer not to accept his appointment as vice president for academic affairs.

The faculty chided Coomer for negotiating his appointment to the new position "in virtual secrecy." They requested Coomer to "ask the president to seek the counsel of our academic leaders to redefine this position and review the qualifications of other candidates."

Godsey announced March 3 the appointment of Coomer, who came to the university last summer as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in Atlanta.

Coomer declined to comment on the faculty's request. "I just consider that an internal communication from the faculty to me," he said. Godsey could not be reached for comment.

Coomer's appointment is part of an overhaul of university administration. The changes resulted from a January vote by Mercer trustees, which instructed Godsey to review the university's administrative structure as part of a package to reduce the school's multimillion-dollar debt.

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Audrey Post is a reporter for the Macon Telegraph and News. The story is used with permission.

PBAC gets \$8 million from Rinker Foundation

N-CO

Baptist Press 3/22/89

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Palm Beach Atlantic College has received a pledge of \$8 million from the Marshall E. Rinker Sr. Foundation.

The funds will be given to the college over the next 10 years, at \$800,000 per year, officials of the Baptist school announced.

The donation carries two specific purposes -- to fund PBAC's Rinker School of Business program and to fund the Rinker School of Business construction.

The new complex will house classrooms and offices for the Rinker School of Business, as well as dormitory space for 140 students.

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Midwestern's Hester Lectureship emphasizes 'singing the word'

By Brenda J. Sanders

N-CO (MWBTS)

Baptist Press 3/22/89

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The language of a sermon does more than simply tote information or transfer the facts of the gospel, according to Missouri pastor Paul Duke. A preacher's words must point powerfully beyond themselves to evoke a response in the listener.

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"Words faithful chosen for reaching to a deeper place want not just to talk about the gospel, but the sing the gospel so that the heart turns its head and hears," he said.

Duke, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis, was the featured speaker during the H.I. Hester Lectureship on Preaching at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. The lecture series is dedicated to bringing distinguished authorities in preaching to the school's campus.

Duke's lecture theme, "Singing the Word," focused on the language of the preacher and the worship of God.

"This subject of finding the right language for worship and preaching is one that desperately needs reconsideration these days," he pointed out. "Too many of us have lost our sense of language. We have lost our sense of the weight of a word.

"We speak of eternal mysteries with a flippancy that is breathtaking," Duke continued. "We address people's hurts, hopes and sins with talk that is so careless as to be week-by-week cruel."

Preachers have the sacred privilege of announcing the good news of Christ, he said, and this good news "ought to be lifted in sentences that have some brightness to them, in words that sometimes are frothy with the taste and the tang of new wine."

"What does it say about us that we would stand and speak such news in rambling talk and dead cliches, that we should offer treasure with no care?" he asked. "The pulpit becomes the place of the weekly anti-miracle -- Sunday after Sunday people like us turning wine back into water."

The language of a preacher should not be artificial, ornate or foreign to the way people talk in everyday life, he said: "We don't want language that points to itself. And we don't want language that points to the preacher."

Instead, preachers should use language that is lean, he said, choosing one word instead of three. He advised avoiding piled-on constructions, empty phrases, cliches, abstractions and generalizations.

"Keep yourselves to nouns, verbs and mono-syllables," he told his audience. "Pick words that engage the ear and actually do something inside the mind.

"What it all boils down to is keeping pulpit language simple, clean, clear and true. The single-most important thing in your preaching is never to try to sound like someone other than who you are."

Plain words joined together in extraordinary combinations will point to something higher than the language itself can express, he said.

"More preaching ought to evoke the living word of God among us, to ignite its memories, to rekindle its passions, to stir among the people a recognition that goes far deeper than the rational," he said. The preacher can help the congregation do this by telling stories, offering images, metaphors, memories, "words saturated in the senses and cadences of speech whose rhythms ring true and call out something from deep to deep."

Duke warned his listeners not to focus solely on the sermon as a thing in itself, but to remember preaching happens in the context of worship.

"Worship is a symphony; preaching is one movement in the symphony," he said.

A harmony of preaching and worship can be attained through both horizontal and vertical movements, he continued.

"By horizontal movement, we mean that in worship human beings relate to each other," Duke elaborated. "They welcome each other, encourage each other, appeal to each other, pray for each other and draw power from each other.

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"Through the vertical reach of worship ... God draws near to us, and we draw near to God. God addresses us, and we address God."

Many churches emphasize one movement over the other, Duke said, and Southern Baptists tend to lean toward the horizontal reach.

"We need nothing so much as to be dumbstruck with awe at the splendor of God," he said. "How flippant and chatty our worship seems. How glibly professional we preachers come off and what a pitifully tiny sense of God that kind of worship advertises."

Authentic worship should include both vertical and horizontal movements, he said. "We should not forget that this is the shape, in the end, in which Jesus poured out his life -- arms stretched out to the world, life lifted up to God. All worship in his name is cruciform."

Preachers should think of the sermon as a sacrifice to God, Duke added: "When a minister of the gospel offers his or her best, most-loving expression of the good news to the glory of God, the people in whose presence that preaching is offered receive not only its content but its witness to how the true God is worshipped and served."

"Preach with all your might before the Lord. Let your speaking and singing be more than anything else a leading in the passionate worship of God. Let it be a pouring out of your life. Let the Holy Spirit pour you upon those who hear you as an empowerment for them to get up and pour out as well themselves."

"The gospel is music, and somebody ought to sing it."

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Senior adult music ministry  
deserves more than kazooos

By Charles Willis

N-SSB  
Baptist Press  
3/22/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--Too often the senior adult music ministry in a church has consisted of a jug band and a kazoo choir, a minister of music who works extensively with senior adults told participants in a seminar at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Lyndel Vaught, minister of music at First Baptist Church of San Angelo, Texas, began a study of the aging voice in 1971, and in 1979 he founded the church's senior adult chorus, the Glory Choir.

"Aging is not a disease," he told senior adult and music ministry leaders. "The aging years of life can be a robust winter. To be successful agers, we have to have new experiences and relationships."

Vaught first started thinking about starting a senior adult choir when he moved to San Angelo and discovered a significant retirement community of former denominational workers, including retired missionaries, he said. In learning of the responsible positions those people once had held, Vaught said he came to the conclusion "there is more for the retirement years than playing in a jug band and wearing a funny hat."

Vaught started the Glory Choir with 17 members, 11 of whom are still active in the choir that now numbers 119 people ranging in age from 62 to 92.

He points with pride to the choir members' accumulated "5,000 years of Christianity," saying they deserve "to sing the greatest songs of the church."

Of the original choir members, he recalled discovering a spirit "that deserved more than just playing on little instruments. These people were growing while getting older chronologically. They would do anything I asked if it seemed to be meaningful."

Vaught continues to see "spiritual depth and growth" in a choir he declares is "as good any anyone else's."

His belief that new people and new, meaningful experiences help senior citizens grow is supported by psychologists and sociologists, he said.

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"When senior adults have new experiences, they don't live in the past," he said. "With senior adult music, we are doing something that is more than music. We are teaching them to adapt -- a skill that carries over into other areas of life."

"My whole desire in the beginning was no different for them than for any other choir. I wanted them to be the very best they could be. Today, if the sanctuary choir didn't show up, the senior adult choir could fill in, and the only difference would be in the color of the robes."

New people and new experiences come through travel as the choir accepts invitations to sing not only for other Baptist churches but also for churches of other denominations and for senior citizens' organizations.

With members paying their own way, the choir has been to Mexico four times, where they helped start a church in 1984 and raised \$100,000 to pay for a building where some 150-200 people worship today. They also sang for Baptists in England, where one concert was held in the oldest church building in the country.

"One member joked that finally they had sung in a building older than they were," Vaught laughed.

This year, he said, will be the choir's third year to be the service choir for Aspen Bible Conference at Glorieta (N.M) Baptist Conference Center.

Perhaps Vaught's greatest pride lies in the fact that one-third of the choir's 30-song repertoire is material, both text and music, written by composers in the choir.

Working with senior adults has "transformed my life," Vaught said. "They've shown me how to love and how to care. I've learned it's not how much I acquire that's important but how much I learn and how many experiences I have."

The Senior Adult Music Ministry Seminar was sponsored by the Sunday School Board's church music department.

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Willimon says gospel  
collides with world

By Pat Cole

N- CO  
(SBTS)

Baptist Press  
3/22/89

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The Christian gospel "precipitates a head-on collision" with some of the most cherished values of today's world, stressed a noted American pulpiteer.

William H. Willimon, minister to the university and professor of the practice of Christian ministry at Duke University in Durham, N.C., said the "world has declared war on the church in the most subtle ways." Therefore, he said, Christians must form strong worshipping communities because "being a Christian is too difficult a way to walk alone."

Willimon, the author of 27 books, delivered the E.Y. Mullins Lectures on Preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. The March lectures coincided with the seminary's fourth annual National Conference on Biblical Preaching.

Americans cannot assume their children "will grow up Christian by living in a nice neighborhood, breathing the air and drinking the water," he said. "If our children grow up in this faith, we are going to have to put them there."

The world shifted sometime between 1950 and 1970, Willimon said, noting, "It is no longer natural, normal and American to grow up Christian if it ever was." He added "Paganism is the air we breath and the water we drink" in the present age.

The Methodist minister praised the historic Baptist emphasis on personal conversion. "Baptists were born out of that stunning vision that God has no grandchildren," he said. "The church is not created through natural regeneration but rather through baptism."

He also noted the Anabaptists, forerunners of Baptists, were "pushed out of society" by other Christian groups who "compromised their vision and bedded down with Caesar."

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In another lecture, Willimon warned "we live in a time of almost religious reverence for the power of the state." "People look to the state for their identity and ultimate loyalties, he explained.

"The state has become our most commonly accepted means of self-transcendence, our means of ensuring ourselves against all the vicissitudes of life," he said. "We complain about the nuclear armament of the modern state, but we have little way to extricate ourselves from our nuclear weapons since our state needs much power in order to give us protection."

The state, Willimon added, becomes "like a god" because it "promises us either ultimate security behind the balance of terror of the nuclear shield or else ultimate annihilation after the mutual destruction of a nuclear war."

Willimon contended that churches want "to have the power to change and improve society without converting and evangelizing it." Thus, he said, Christians "gladly adapt the foolishness of the gospel to the world's standards of wisdom."

Such an approach, he cautioned, "reduces our social witness to the backseat status of a general civilizing influence on the empire rather than form a new kingdom loyal to a King who is not Caesar."

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Baptist teachers lecture  
at Mongolian university

By Eric Bridges

N-FMB

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3/22/89

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (BP)--Four Southern Baptist educators visited Mongolia in February to teach English-speaking tourguides and lecture at the national university in the capital city of Ulan Bator.

Mongolian officials and members of the foreign community in Ulan Bator told the Southern Baptists they were the first Americans to teach in the isolated nation, which borders northern China and the Soviet Union.

Kenneth and Lou Ann Locke and Buckley and Ann Qualls spent two weeks in Mongolia at the invitation of Zhuulchin, the Mongolian government tourism agency.

Both couples work in China under the auspices of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist organization that assists nations where missionaries do not work. The Lockes, of Arkadelphia, Ark., teach English at Guangxi University in Nanning. The Quallses, of Corpus Christi, Texas, teach at Yantai University in Shandong Province.

Despite a shaky start, the two couples said they were received graciously. They reached Ulan Bator after a two-day train trip from Beijing, China's capital, only to find no one waiting for them at the train station. Numerous phone calls revealed a communication mixup regarding the teachers' arrival time, but they were taken to a hotel while officials organized English classes for tourguides and tourist hotel personnel.

"They were all university graduates," Locke said of the students who attended. "They had all studied abroad in Moscow or Poland or East Germany, one of the socialist countries. They were the cream of the crop."

More than 40 Mongolians participated in English sessions during the two-week visit. "They were not so interested in studying language as they were in using English for discussions to broaden their general knowledge of America and the Western world," Locke reported.

The university lectures, he said, were "packed, and the students were most attentive."

Mongolia has long maintained close ties with the Soviet bloc, but it is steadily increasing cultural and business contacts with the West. The nation established full diplomatic relations with the United States last year. Of some 10,000 tourists visiting Mongolia each year, about 20 percent now come from Western countries, Locke was told.

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The British Broadcasting Company is assisting Mongolian television with a series of English-teaching programs. Mongolians seem quite interested in learning English for international relations, Locke said, "but it's completely new."

Cooperative Services International representatives have visited Mongolia twice before to meet with tourism and education officials. The Southern Baptist organization hopes to assist the nation with English teaching at all levels of its educational system and is prepared to respond to possible requests from Mongolia for full-time university professors and English teachers as early as next year.

"I think they would be glad to welcome teachers from CSI," Locke said, but the arrangement must be part of an official cultural agreement between Mongolia and the United States.

The teachers asked if a Christian church exists in Mongolia but were told there was none. A Christian member of the foreign community indicated no knowledge of other practicing Christians in Mongolia.