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89-97

Baptist teachers hope
for quick return to China

By Michael Chute

N-FMB

HONG KONG (BP)--Grady and June Lackey's June 19 departure from China left just three Southern Baptist teachers there after the government's June crackdown on the pro-democracy student movement.

But before the Lackeys, of Lubbock, Texas, left for Hong Kong, two other teachers -- John Hippe of Pleasant Valley, Calif., and Joy Hilbun of Baton Rouge, La. -- returned to Jia Ying University in Meixian, China, June 17 to finish the semester and give final examinations. Hilbun left for good June 20, but Hippe will remain until mid-July.

Two other teachers affiliated with the Southern Baptist education and service organization called Cooperative Services International -- Tobi Martin and Dewayne Williams -- have not yet left China. Martin, of Shreveport, La., completed her teaching responsibilities at Zhejiang Medical University but remained temporarily in Hangzhou. She planned to leave China July 3. Williams, of Fort Worth, Texas, was scheduled to arrive in Hong Kong June 24.

"He's under no pressure to come out," said Charlie Wilson, CSI educational resources coordinator. "Things are quiet" in Yunnan province, where Williams teaches at Dali Teachers' College. "Knowing Dewayne like I do, I know he's just finishing up the term as required."

Another teaching couple, Ronnie and Ina Winstead of Bernie, Mo., planned to return to the Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering by July 1. Winstead also is a CSI educational consultant in China.

Regrouping in Hong Kong, CSI officials insist the Southern Baptist organization remains committed to its work in China. They point to the return of Hippe and Hilbun as evidence of CSI's willingness to send personnel to China as long as Chinese universities continue to request assistance.

The organization canceled its summer language institutes because of the unrest in China. But officials said teachers will be back at their posts when classes begin again in the fall.

"We need to reaffirm our commitment and communicate with the schools" which requested personnel, said Wilson. "We need to remember that though there is a political crisis and a crisis of trust, things work slowly in China. Until policy changes, we act on the basis of (existing) policy."

"No school has said, 'Yankee, go home.' The schools have said they want us back. In spite of the last two weeks, our life goes on. It's up to them to say no to us."

CSI teachers left their posts two to three weeks before the end of the spring term after Chinese students boycotted classes in support of the demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. The boycotts have effectively halted classes at most Chinese universities since early May, when the mass student protest began in Beijing.

"The students said, 'We are going to make a vacant campus,'" recalled Ann Qualls, of Corpus Christi, Texas, who taught at Yantai University with her husband, Buckley, for the past 18 months. "They wanted to go home to spread the word, to tell the people what was happening. The teachers are still there. They've had to go every day even though they haven't had students to teach."

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The mood on the Guangxi University campus in Nanning "was almost a state of shock" after the killings in Tiananmen Square, said Ken Locke of Arkadelphia, Ark., CSI education coordinator for China. He and his wife, Lou Ann, taught there.

"The students, in two days, decided to boycott examinations and go home. They were just all of a sudden up and gone," Locke said. The Lockes have re-entry visas for China and plan to return in August to complete the last two years of their teaching contract.

Lackey remembered students telling him they must "empty the campus like the government emptied the square." After people realized the student movement was being crushed by the government, Lackey said, an atmosphere of hopelessness pervaded the Yangzhou Teachers' College where he taught.

With no students on campus and the political situation uncertain, CSI teachers decided to leave China at least temporarily. The U.S. State Department also urged all American citizens to depart.

"We left because of a crisis ... because of news reports and events in China," Wilson said of the recommendation that CSI's 33 teachers and three students leave Chinese schools. "There was the potential for danger and, at one point, apparently even civil war. If that had broken out, our teachers would have been stranded. We made the right decision to leave."

Another concern is that Americans might become "more of a burden than a help for the Chinese," said Hippe, explaining that the Chinese "are always looking out for our well-being."

"I did not want to leave," added Martha Sue Todd of Windsor, N.C., "but I didn't want to put any pressure on my Chinese friends either. They advised me to leave."

Although the potential for danger existed, none of the CSI personnel felt they were in any particular danger inside China. Most expressed frustration with the lack of information available to them to make a decision on whether to stay or leave. Some felt the U.S. State Department's warnings overstated the situation.

Only three CSI workers were in locations where martial law was declared. Jay Templeton of Kingsland, Texas, and Jana Clayton of Longmont, Colo., were language students in Beijing when the army-student clashes took place. They managed to leave the city five days later. Millie Cather of Lebanon, Tenn., was in Chengdu when security forces moved in to control demonstrations there.

Clayton called reports of danger to foreigners "a little exaggerated." Templeton added, "I never felt like we should leave." He plans to return this fall to his studies at the Second Foreign Language Institute in Beijing. Clayton completed her two-year contract with CSI and will return to the United States.

The way foreign teachers left China was traumatic for them and for those with whom they worked. They experienced the anguish of being abruptly pulled away before they could complete the assignments.

"Our heart is in China," said Mrs. Locke, who previously spent 10 years in Hong Kong. "Asia is not a new experience for us. We're not here for the thrill. It's home."

Besides the frustration, the teachers also grieve for the Chinese with whom they worked. Some might be among those "criticized" by the government as blame for the student movement falls on specific individuals.

Clara Segars of Gainesville, Ga., was so frustrated with the violence in China that all she could do was "cry and cry and cry for the students," she said. "They are completely disillusioned. In their worst imagination, they never imagined it would come to that. I feel such grief for those kids."

The Quallses were "simply devastated" by a Hong Kong newspaper's front-page picture showing a young man handcuffed to a tree in China. Seeing such pictures arouses fear some Chinese friends may soon be targets of the government crackdown.

As they reassess the China work, CSI officials recognize the environment there has changed, both psychologically and educationally. They also expect a natural apprehension on the part of some American teachers to come to China now.

"There is going to be a real shortage of teachers in China next year," Locke predicted. "But now, more than ever, they need us. You could make a real contribution."

All of the people leaving China expressed support for CSI work there. Their overwhelming response was to stay and continue the work.

Glen Davis of Frankfort, Ky., and his wife, Rose, have no doubts they are returning to China to teach this fall at Nanjing Pharmaceutical College. As foreigners were hurriedly exiting China, the Davises received their re-entry visas the week following the Beijing killings.

"China needs us more than a year ago when we first came," Davis stated. "It needs us more now than it did just last week."

As the most recent CSI teacher to leave China, June Lackey said she sensed a lessening of the feelings of despair.

"I'm glad we stayed long enough (after the initial shock) to know the students still have a hope for change," she said. "The Chinese are patient. They have been through so much. There is a feeling of light way down at the end."

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Based in Hong Kong, Chute is Baptist Press overseas correspondent for Asia.
(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

WMU postpones
China tours

By Susan Todd

N-CD
(WMU)

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Tours of Lottie Moon's China, sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, have been postponed until resuming them is advisable, a national WMU official reported.

"The tours which have been postponed will be rescheduled at the earliest possible date," said Catherine Allen, WMU associate executive director. "We hope to be able to resume travel by August."

The two tours scheduled for June have been postponed based on advice from officials with Cooperative Services International. CSI is a Southern Baptist organization that provides aid and personnel to countries where missionaries do not work.

Scheduling of the remaining 15 tours planned through 1990 will occur on a tour-by-tour basis, Allen said, adding, WMU plans to be among the first tour groups to return to China, Allen said.

"Our going back to China will not only consider the safety of our people but whether or not our presence will be helpful or harmful to the Chinese Christian people," Allen said.

WMU officials are optimistic about the future of tours into the Shandong Province of China, the area in which Lottie Moon lived and worked. Moon was one of Southern Baptists' first single female missionaries.

"We're still signing people up to go to China," Allen said. "We will continue to go as long as there is a constructive reason to do so."

WMU led tours into China through June 4, when the 19th group to tour China returned to the United States, completing its trip just prior to the eruption of violence in Tiananmen Square.

WMU began leading the tours in 1988 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Since then, more than 600 people have participated in the tours.

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Biblical models said to solve
church staff disagreements

By Charles Willis

N-SSB

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Just as the successful performance of an orchestra comes from a variety of instruments, the effective functioning of a church staff comes from a variety of talents, a Southern Baptist seminary professor told church musicians at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"The church staff shouldn't be a 100-piece tuba orchestra," said Wade Rowatt, professor of psychology of religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "Nor should the trumpet say to the violin, 'I have no need of you.'"

The rich variety among a church staff has a biblical model in the diversity of Jesus' disciples with their unique gifts, he added.

However, Rowatt observed diversity can create difficulty in relationships if staff members do not understand one another's leadership styles.

"You need to understand yourself, your style of managing anger and your approach to problem solving. Then you need to know the style of the people you work for, with and over," he said.

"Learning how to relate to each other will reduce a lot of the conflicts. For instance, knowing the pastor is concerned with good relationships more than getting the job done tells you to begin any discussion with relationships and then present the task."

Biblical approaches to disagreements and anger should be practiced by all church staff members, Rowatt noted. "I really think more churches need to use the Bible in operating as a church and that the staff should use the Bible as well as preaching it from the pulpit," he said.

"Confront privately and with respect," he urged. "Fight the problem and forgive the person; be willing to turn to a peacemaker; look for creative alternatives together; win the person, not the fight."

Rowatt endorsed mutual affirmation as a means to solve some problems "at the mole hill level before they get to be mountains. Give credit where credit is due, pull your load and be concerned for each other's personal situations. Each person on a church staff is of equal worth, even if they don't have equal power in the eyes of the church."

Participation in leadership and goal setting are important to many church staff persons, he observed: "No one likes to be thought of as insignificant to the organization. We need to let all staff members feel they are valued for their input and not just give credit to the pastor."

Church Music Leadership Conference was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department.

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'Discipleship Training' name better
reflects tasks, Edgemon says

By Terri Lackey

N-SSB

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The No. 1 task of Southern Baptists' church training program is involving people in discipleship training, according to the director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department.

Roy Edgemon said changing the name of the program, the department and the monthly magazine to discipleship training will better reflect "the biblical base for our program."

Sunday School Board trustees in February approved the changes, effective Oct. 1, 1989. Changing the name of the program from program of church training development to program of discipleship training development also was approved in February by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, as required by SEC bylaws, and by messengers to the 1989 SBC meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13-15.

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The church training program is based on the concept that church members will learn Bible teachings, practice what they have learned and tell others about God, said Edgemon.

"The church training department is in the business of discipleship, and we want our name to better reflect that," he said. "'Discipleship' is a Jesus word. It's used in five of the New Testament books of the Bible -- the gospels and Acts."

The new name, which Edgemon said already has gained wide acceptance among churches, "has emerged naturally over a period of years."

"It more adequately reflects the task assignments of our program," he added.

Edgemon said the six tasks of church training are:

- Reaching people for discipleship training.
- Orienting new church members for responsible church membership.
- Equipping church members for discipleship and personal ministry.
- Teaching Christian theology and Baptist doctrine, Christian ethics, Christian history and church polity and organization.
- Training church leaders for ministry.
- Interpreting and undergirding the work of the church and the denomination.

Changing the name of the church training department came in part as a response from a request at the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta, where a motion from the floor called for a name change, Edgemon said.

Discipleship training "provides a fresh, biblical name without producing an abrupt change," he said. "The name will provide continuity, since training has been a part of our program for over 50 years."

The church training program began as a youth movement, Edgemon said. In 1895, Southern Baptists established an auxiliary agency of the Baptist Young People's Union of America, which originated in Chicago in 1891 as an independent agency serving churches in several Baptist conventions.

BYPU was designed for youth 17 and older. By 1905, a junior BYPU for youth under 17 was established.

In 1918, the SBC committed to the Sunday School Board full responsibility for developing BYPU work. By 1929, BYPU had evolved into a church-wide, age-graded church membership training organization with full curriculum and periodical materials.

The name has changed twice since then, Edgemon said.

In 1934, the program name was changed to Baptist Training Union to reflect the more diversified membership.

In 1972, the name again was changed to the program of church training development, more commonly referred to as church training, and the current task statements were applied, Edgemon said. The task assignments will not change under the new name.

Keith Markham, director of church training and family ministries for the Missouri Baptist Convention, said his office had been promoting the name "discipleship training" before the church training department had considered a change.

"Discipleship training" better describes the "varied and different materials" the church training department now offers, Markham said, referring to such resources as Equipping Center modules, Lay Institute for Equipping courses, and Survival Kits.

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State church training directors unanimously approved the name change when they met for a mid-year meeting with the church training department in May 1988.

Edgemon said he hopes the new name will "awaken many churches to the work of member training, new member training and leadership training."

And while churches may choose whether to adopt the new name for their training organizations, Edgemon believes "it more aptly describes what we are asking churches to do -- commit to a total discipleship program."

"Not only are we (church training department) asking that churches carry a discipleship program -- it's a biblical mandate."

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Intensive soul winning
effort set for 1990 SBC

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

N-10
(La.)

Baptist Press
6/22/89

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--Louisiana Baptists and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, are planning an intensive soul-winning emphasis in 13 Louisiana associations prior to the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans.

The 13 associations comprise the major population area of the state, including New Orleans and Baton Rouge, with more than 2.5 million people, said Charles Harvey, director of evangelism for the Louisiana convention.

The effort was planned in a March meeting at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary by Home Mission Board personnel Bobby Sunderland and Howard Ramsey and Louisiana Baptist evangelism and Sunday school leaders.

Harvey said plans include enlisting 1,500 certified witness teachers from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention by the Home Mission Board to work in 250 Louisiana churches prior to the 1990 annual meeting, scheduled June 12-14 in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

Harvey said, "Our schedule calls for the witness leaders to have an orientation meeting the evening of June 8 along with leaders of the participating churches.

"Saturday morning, June 9, we have scheduled a soul-winning workshop led by the witness teachers for Sunday school teachers and other leaders of the participating churches. Saturday afternoon and night will be times for witnessing in the communities where churches are located. Harvest Day is set for Sunday to give opportunity for those making decisions to unite with the local church."

The "One Day Soul-Winning Workshop" program is the one designed by Ramsey, director of personal evangelism at the Home Mission Board, said Harvey.

Plans for the program are expected to be completed in September when "Project SBC '90" will be presented by the steering committee to representatives of all the associations.

Harvey said the larger committee will consist of directors of missions, associational evangelism directors, Sunday school directors, moderators and members of associational evangelism committees.

Reports from the 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., indicated about 400 professions of faith in Christ during saturation evangelism efforts by some 2,000 people from 38 states.

Harvey said, "We want to work through the local churches to assist with their soul winning and witnessing programs in the local communities. This plan provides for follow-up ministries by the pastors and members to help new converts with their commitments."

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