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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Marv Knox, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367.
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201.
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234. Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230. Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Telephone (202) 544-4226

September 6, 1989

89-127

Paul Powell changes mind,
accepts Annuity Board presidency By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

N- (O)
(A. Bd.)

DALLAS (BP)--Paul W. Powell, 55, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church of Tyler, Texas, has reversed himself and accepted election as president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Trustees were informed of Powell's decision Aug. 30, and he resigned his 17-year pastorate Sept. 3.

Powell will join the Annuity Board as president-elect Oct. 16 and become president March 1, 1990, succeeding Darold H. Morgan, who is retiring after 18 years.

A five-year trustee of the Annuity Board, Powell unanimously was elected by his fellow trustees July 25 after nomination by an eight-member search committee. As late as July 24, Powell had said he would not accept the post, but the search committee secured his permission to let the full board vote on the recommendation.

On Aug. 13, Powell told his congregation he would remain as pastor. The church members gave him a standing ovation.

The search committee met in Nashville Aug. 21 to chart its future course. George H. Balentine Jr., a South Carolina industrialist and committee chairman, said: "We had a session of prayer for God to give leadership. I felt like, then, something was going to happen. We scheduled another meeting for Sept. 21 in Dallas."

Thursday night, Aug. 24, Powell called Balentine to say: "I can find no peace in the answer I gave you. If you still want me, I will come."

Balentine called each member of the search committee and each member talked personally with Powell during the next several days. Their response was unanimous and affirming of the original vote of the board, he said.

In a joint letter to the trustees, Aug. 30, B.J. Martin, chairman of the board, and Balentine wrote, "Previously scheduled absences from his pulpit, a mission trip in Central America, a rallying, loving, caring congregation, and persistent media attention, greatly complicated the process of decision making."

In an interview, Balentine said: "I suppose, some people find God's way an unusual way. We didn't beg Paul. We didn't hound him. We prayed, listened, voted, and then waited for God to make clear to Paul what he had made clear to us -- Paul is the man to serve as president."

The search committee considered 41 candidates before settling on Powell to head the \$2.6 billion pension and insurance agency, Balentine added.

Powell said of his resolve to accept: "I feel a sense of compulsion. It's that simple."

The pastor said neither he nor his wife, Cathy, had gained any peace with the earlier decision. He said, "I simply had to admit that the committee recommendation and the board's decision was right. Now we're going to do the right thing and go forward."

"I love my people and they love me, but we all love God best, and we all want what God wants."

Powell said he received many letters and calls offering prayer and affirmation to whatever decision he made, but one stood out because of its challenge.

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"John M. Wright, my boyhood pastor, wrote to give me a verse of Scripture, and it has burned in my heart. It was Matthew 25:23: 'You have been faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many.' He didn't try to make my decision. He just gave the Word and let it speak," Powell said.

Morgan, who was 65 Aug. 5, said: "It is evident that the leadership of the Lord was in the selection of Paul Powell. He is a pastor's friend who knows his way in corporate business circles. The work of the Annuity Board will move right ahead without missing a stroke."

Chairman Martin said: "I have no doubt we have had God's leadership because of the beautiful way this has all developed. I deeply respect and appreciate the agonizing prayer that Paul engaged in before deciding to leave the pastorate. It was undoubtedly a very difficult decision, and we are tremendously pleased by the end result."

Powell was born in Brookeland, Texas, and grew up in Port Arthur. He is a graduate of Baylor University and received the bachelor of divinity degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He has authored 16 books, one of which was translated into four languages, plus articles and papers.

He served two terms as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (1985-87).

The Tyler congregation, under Powell's leadership, decided several years ago to concentrate evangelistic and church development attention on a single country, Belize, Central America. With the guidance of Southern Baptist missionaries, Green Acres church has paid for construction of eight churches; developed, constructed and donated a retreat center and placed a Bible in virtually every home in the country. The congregation has built one church in a foreign country each year for the last 12 years.

Ministry teams from Tyler have provided Bible schools, revival leadership, medical missions and educational retreats.

Green Acres Baptist Church, with 7,000 members, is a leader in Texas Baptist Bible study, evangelism and missions. It contributes 10 percent of its budget to Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, and has voted to increase that amount by one-half of one percent for each of the next ten years. Some 3,000 gather each week for Sunday school in the church and its eight local missions; two Hispanic, one Black, one Korean and four Anglo. The church's 1989 budget is \$2.5 million. Baptisms numbered 202 in 1988.

The church's soup kitchen, "Manna House," will serve 18,000 free meals this year, providing a hot meal every day to the needy and transient in the east Texas community.

"Joseph's Closet," the church's clothing ministry, will provide clothing for 20,000 persons during 1989.

One night each week the congregation provides free medical and dental services, and will treat 2,000 people before the year is out.

Literacy volunteers are teaching English to 50 immigrants, 20 of whom are studying for American citizenship.

"That's who my people are, and that's who I am," said Powell, "pastor of a church that gets things done."

"We provide a foster home in cooperation with Buckner Benevolences, a missionary house for furloughing foreign missionaries and a tutoring program for minority children," he added.

Mrs. Powell is the former Cathy Vaught, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Vaught of Port Arthur. After a brief career as a school teacher, she devoted full time to homemaking. She teaches in the church's Sunday school and volunteers in the Manna House and the tutoring program.

The Powells are the parents of Kent and Mike, both of Tyler, and Lori (Mrs. Ray Kallas) of Bartlesville, Okla. Mike and his wife, Shaune, have a son, Jordan, who is 2.

Humility, prayer said needed
for healing, renewal in SBC

By Ken Camp & Terry Barone

N-Texas

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptists must humble themselves before God and pray if they truly desire spiritual awakening, several prayer leaders said at the "Cedars of Lebanon" prayer retreat at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Encampment in Texas.

Baptists from Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee gathered for "a fresh word from God" at the prayer retreat, sponsored by the Texas Baptist Men organization Sept. 1-3 near Cedar Hill, Texas.

Brokenness, humility and meekness can be the starting place for God to bring healing and renewal to the divided Southern Baptist Convention, said T.W. Hunt, prayer consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

"When we hurt, the Holy Spirit can teach us life's deepest lessons," he said, noting that in times of pain and loss people need God's comfort.

"God may need to break Southern Baptists. That may be happening to us. Pride indicates a lack of brokenness. But with every fiber of my being, I do not believe that God is finished with Southern Baptists."

Noting that revival is dependent upon humility and meekness, Hunt challenged Southern Baptists to become like little children and esteem others better than themselves.

Pointing to the ongoing trial of televangelist Jim Bakker and the scandals that have rocked other ministries, Hunt said: "The body of Christ has been decimated by a decade of religious celebrities. I knew it was happening.

"In the midst of looking at our TVs and exalting our preachers, speakers and religious celebrities -- in the midst of it, God was allowing the SBC to be broken.

"God forbid that we should boast, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. How does Jesus view the SBC from the cross?"

Borrowing an illustration from the Old Testament prophet Amos, Don Miller of Fort Worth, Texas, challenged Southern Baptists to compare their lives to God's plumbline -- Jesus Christ.

"I believe that our Holy Father is saying to Southern Baptists today, 'I have placed a plumbline in your midst. I'll not bother with you until you're straight again,'" said Miller, director of Bible-Based Ministries. "Folks, this is straightening-out time for us."

God's urgent desire is that his people will seek his face, said Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"These are days when God is pleading with us to seek his face because there is so much he wants us to do," said Blackaby, adding that he believes Southern Baptists may be on the verge of spiritual awakening.

"I've seen more movement of God among Southern Baptists in the last 11 months than I have seen in the last 30 years," he said.

Blackaby said one of the greatest plagues he has ever seen is the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, but Southern Baptists still have a chance if they will humble themselves, pray and turn from their wicked ways. If this is done, God has promised to hear and heal, he noted.

"If there ever was a day when we (Southern Baptists) need to humble ourselves, it is now," he said.

"I don't know why he is using Southern Baptists with all our sin, but he is saying, 'I want to work through you. My eyes are open and my ears are attentive and I want to put my permanent residence in the middle of you.'"

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Obedience is the foundation of the Christian life and a prerequisite for spiritual awakening, stressed Don Gibson, lay ministries director of Texas Baptist Men.

"God will turn his face toward us when we're ready to receive," said Gibson. "God's got a plan for us, and obedience is the only way we're going to find it out."

Ex-convict Don Dennis of Ennis, Texas, reported that about 200 prisoners in state and federal prisons are studying the MasterLife discipleship curriculum. At least 200 others are waiting to begin, he added, citing an urgent need for trained volunteer instructors who are willing to take MasterLife behind bars.

Avery Willis, author of MasterLife, said spiritual awakening could begin in unexpected places, such as prisons: "We may learn through MasterLife being in the prisons in Texas that these people will go back home to the inner cities, the crack houses, the bars and tell their friends a new story."

"They may even come to your church, and you need to be ready to accept them and love them."

Christians must live by the servanthood model that Jesus demonstrated in washing the disciple's feet, Willis said.

"We need to serve the people Jesus served -- outcasts, fisherman and ordinary and needy people," he said.

Baptisms are down in the Southern Baptist Convention, Willis said, because "we are not going to the people who have needs. When Bold Mission Thrust began, it took 34 Southern Baptists to win one person to Christ. Today, it takes 44."

The gospel flows through relationships, he said, noting that out of the 2 million professions of faith in Christ in the Indonesian awakening, 83 percent of those baptized said they had a friend or relative who witnessed to them.

"The reason God's yoke is easy," Willis said, "is because it fits. All you need to do is find out where God is going and get in step with him."

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Also contributing to this report was Orville Scott, news and information director, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

F-FMB

Baptists try to help
Mozambique recover

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
9/6/89

MAPUTO, Mozambique (BP)--Things are better -- and worse -- in Mozambique.

Two years ago most shops in Maputo, the capital of this southeast African country, were closed because of economic difficulties. Now they are open and offering a growing range of merchandise.

Automobiles, once scarce and hobbled by strict rationing of gasoline, now roam the wide streets in increasing numbers -- even producing a 5 p.m. "rush minute" on weekdays.

Western aid, shunned for years by the government is now welcomed -- and courted -- by President Joaquim Chissano.

But evidence of an improved economy stops at the city limits, because of the shadowy rebel group which calls itself Renamo.

Renamo's scorched-earth policy, bent on demonstrating the inability of Frelimo, the ruling party, to govern, has turned what once was one of Africa's most fertile agricultural breadbaskets into a land of starvation and ruin.

Every month thousands of rural residents give up their struggle to plant and flee to the larger cities or across the borders of neighboring countries.

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Each person who quits the land increases Mozambique's dependency on foreign aid to stave off famine. And as tens of thousands of refugees crowd the cities, strain increases on overburdened and aging municipal systems to provide clean water, health care, schools and police service.

"I think the situation in the rural areas is worse now than it was when the world first started noticing the plight of all the starving people here," says Jim Brock, a Southern Baptist missionary who lives in Maputo. "Only now there are even fewer people risking their lives in an effort to raise crops.

"In the past six months it seems like almost all the vacant space in Maputo has been filled with the huts of families who have fled the rural areas."

Aid donors now know the needs and are ready to assist, but even relief trucks and planes are fair game for Renamo gunners.

However, a seed project funded by Southern Baptists and carried out by Mozambique Baptists is still operating. Baptist leader Bento Matusse hopes the project, which provides planting seeds and hoes to rural people, can be enlarged. Matusse is president of the Baptist Convention of Mozambique and pastor of First Baptist Church in Maputo.

"People come into the cities but there is no land," Matusse explains. "Agriculture is the best solution to hunger, but the bandits (Renamo) burn and rob so people don't have any clothes or housing. In this situation we ask anyone anywhere who can help to do anything they can."

But Mozambicans don't sit and wait for outside aid to rescue them. Women's groups at First Baptist Church in Maputo, led by Mara Matusse, the pastor's wife, operate a clothes distribution program. Many of the clothes come from friends in the United States. They also teach sewing, mending and cooking classes for refugees.

"Many of these women can't get the foods they are used to so we have to show them how to give their family good nutrition with what they can get in Maputo," Mrs. Matusse points out.

Church members divide and sack the seeds into packets. Young men of the church have risked their lives to distribute the seeds and hoes in outlying areas.

Despite -- or because of -- the unrelenting economic strain and human hemorrhage of war, the people of Mozambique are responsive to the Christian gospel, Baptists report. In 1975 Baptists numbered less than 500 members in four churches. By January 1989, membership totaled 5,492 in 15 churches and 58 missions.

Brock is quick to note two significant details related to the numbers. "First is that Mozambicans are very strict in their interpretation of 'membership,'" he says. "Every church has many, many more regular attenders than members.

"Second, all the growth has been in urban areas, and in Africa the rural population is almost always more open to Christianity than the people in the cities. So when the fighting ends and we can move freely, there will really be an explosion."

Brock is impressed by the vision and dedication he sees in the country's Baptist churches.

"One of the most exciting things is that no one has to convince these people to be concerned about the lost," he observes. "They decided 10 years ago to reach out and expand and even though they have struggled financially, they are reaching out.

"Just about every time someone comes to Maputo from another city upcountry, they bring word of new missions being started, and First Baptist in Maputo has 13 missions itself."

So as cars and merchandise fill the streets and stores of Maputo and other major cities, rural refugees fill the open spaces. The economy struggles to right itself from the wrongs of war.

And Baptists try to help Mozambique get better.

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Bird is overseas correspondent for Africa.

Bible Way program retooled
for Mozambique church planting

By Craig Bird

F - FMB

MAPUTO, Mozambique (BP)--A sturdy old workhorse has been hitched up for new duty in Mozambique.

Bible Way, the correspondence program that originated in neighboring Zambia and has since spread around the world as a printed evangelism tool, is the key ingredient in a Mozambique Baptist plan to start churches throughout the country.

"We think this is a radical new use, a refocusing of Bible Way," Southern Baptist missionary Jim Brock explains. "In other places, it has been applied shotgun style with opportunities for anyone in the country's general population to enroll."

That approach has produced hundreds of thousands of new Christians and trained thousands of others. But Baptist leaders in Mozambique recognized Bible Way's potential in another dimension-identifying core groups to establish churches.

"Basically we have re-honed the target for Bible Way here," Brock points out. "After the convention identifies an area where it thinks new work should be established, a convention worker goes there for two weeks and distributes 100 Bible Way applications for people to mail back in.

"Then we have a year to make contact with people who respond and compile the names and addresses. When the convention church planter arrives, he has a list and can knock on those doors and say, 'Hi, I'm from the Mozambique Baptist Convention. You probably got our free book. Can I come in and visit for a few minutes?'"

The worker gets commitments from several people to hold a Bible study for their neighbors, based on a program developed by Southern Baptist missionary Carroll Shaw in South Africa.

"After 17 weeks of home Bible study, you've got a mission, and the church planter has a natural base to grow a mother church in that town to reach out into surrounding areas, again using home Bible studies as the seeds," Brock explains.

The original concept behind Bible Way was "not just another correspondence Bible study, but a program that would produce believers who would produce churches," according to missionary Tom Small, who was asked by fellow missionaries in Zambia to write the book "Who is Jesus?" for the study.

From its launch, Bible Way has proven effective in leading new Christians to unite with a church or even form one if no churches exist in their area. Mozambican Baptists say they simply amplified a strength already inherent in Bible Way and applied it more specifically.

But getting maximum use out of literature is a way of life in the southeast African country. "Christian literature has been very scarce for many, many years. Baptist churches have been reusing literature that was left behind by Portuguese Baptists when they left the country in the mid-1970's following independence," Brock says.

Literature belongs to the convention and is checked out to the churches, which return it before receiving the next batch.

"We came in planning to concentrate on theological education by extension to help train leadership, but when the convention realized we could help with literature, they asked us to concentrate on that first, so we have," Brock admits.

When the missionary gave Baptist convention President Bento Matusse the first copy of the first book in the Christian training course, Matusse "held it like it was gold; it was so precious to him," Brock says. "Most Americans would have complained because it was mimeographed instead of printed offset. But these people are so hungry for Christian training and have done with so little for so long, it touches them deeply."

Brock encourages the Mozambican trait of reusing material. "They don't have a tradition of throwing things away and I think it would be foolish to introduce it," he says.

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One example of this philosophy appears in children's material. Bible stories are printed on the back of teaching pictures and the entire sheet is laminated. "I'm told the laminated copies will last 50 to 75 years while a regular picture might not last two years," Brock adds.

Literature usually is produced first in Portuguese, the national language. But as soon as possible, workers prepare translations into major ethnic dialects since many Mozambicans, especially in rural areas, do not speak Portuguese. The Home Bible Reading Program, for example, now is available in Portuguese, Macua, Chuabo, Shona and Changana.

That's significant for two reasons. It gets material into the "heart language" of the people, and it prepares for the evangelistic explosion Brock is convinced will take place when Mozambique's civil war finally ends.

"Right now refugees are pouring into the cities," he explains. "We are putting this material into their hands and training them how to use it in the missions the Baptist churches are starting. When the war ends and they go back home, they'll take the material with them and start home Bible studies. And there will be the core groups to form churches."

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Missouri survey mirrors national
Cooperative Program trends By Philip Poole & Trennis Henderson

N- (Mo.)

Baptist Press
9/6/89

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--If Missouri Baptists are indicators, the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program has possibilities for increased contributions despite current giving trends. The conclusion emerged in a statewide survey released recently by a Missouri Baptist Convention Cooperative Program task force.

The survey revealed that most Missouri Baptist leadership was willing to increase contributions to the denomination's unified giving plan. The survey also showed that more than half the members of Missouri Baptist churches did not understand the Cooperative Program.

The two-page, 35-question survey was mailed in late March to Missouri Baptist leaders as part of research conducted by the 17-member statewide task force that is responsible for studying and recommending ways to promote the Cooperative Program in Missouri.

About 8,800 copies of the survey were mailed to pastors, directors of missions, associational stewardship directors, church clerks, deacon chairmen and local Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood and Sunday school directors.

The survey was conducted by Craig and Associates of Nashville, whose president, Floyd A. Craig, is a consultant to the task force.

Survey results show that more than 64 percent of the responding pastors think Cooperative Program giving should be increased in their churches; about 19 percent strongly agree and another 45 percent agree. More than 51 percent indicated the increase should include greater percentage giving to unified budget.

Among more than 3,000 people responding to the survey, 98.7 percent see the Cooperative Program as a "plan to enable all churches to participate in missions," and 94.5 percent agree it is the "efficient way of funding missions." Only 5.8 believe the program "has outlived its usefulness," and 4.5 percent think it "should be abandoned as a method of funding missions."

In addition to answers to the specific survey questions, respondents made more than 1,000 additional handwritten comments about improvements and increases to the Cooperative Program. Several focus groups also were conducted in the state.

Survey and focus group results are being used to develop a communications and education plan that will be launched during the annual state convention meeting in October.

"We believe the survey may be one of the most comprehensive studies of the Cooperative Program that has been done in many years," said Larry D. Thomas, Missouri Baptist church services division director. "Missouri Baptists surfaced many needs and opportunities. We are committed to being sensitive to those needs."

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Concern over support for the Cooperative Program has been expressed in recent years on the state and national levels. Missouri Baptists have failed to reach their annual Cooperative Program allocation budget each of the past seven years, although actual dollar giving has increased slightly each year. The state executive board staff has faced repeated budget cuts and spending reductions in the past few years to help maintain a balanced budget.

Nationally, Southern Baptists have met their basic Cooperative Program budget with some giving increases but have failed to meet challenge and capital needs budgets.

"The financial cuts being made now by some of our SBC agencies and institutions are not new to Missouri," said Donald V. Wideman, Missouri Baptist executive director. "Our staff has made budget adjustments for several years to bring our programming and spending in line with actual giving trends in the state.

Craig said the survey indicates giving to the Cooperative Program was affected by "a lack of real understanding about its purpose."

About 62 percent of the survey respondents agreed that less than half the members of their respective congregations "understood and are committed to the Cooperative Program."

These results appear to reflect national trends, Craig said.

Wideman noted that the survey reaffirms the Baptist view that "missions is the key element of the Cooperative Program." A primary goal of the task force is to "educate this generation of Southern Baptists about the value of the Cooperative Program and to build their support for it," he said. "The Cooperative Program, since its beginning, has been the most efficient way to support missions, and I believe when our people come to understand this they will increase their missions giving."

Thomas said trends from the survey appear to be true in other states, based on informal discussions he has had with other state convention leaders.

"There are indications that other state conventions are experiencing some of the same concerns we have in Missouri about Cooperative Program," Thomas said. "They are faced with some of the same stagnated giving patterns. We hope our research and intensive, personalized promotion will be a model for other states."

Many signs point to an encouraging future of the Cooperative Program, Craig said.

"More than 94 percent of the pastors and about 96 percent of the lay leadership said CP should not be abandoned," Craig said. "About 91 percent of the pastors and more than 95 percent of the lay leaders said CP had not outlived its usefulness. At the same time, about 81 percent of the pastors and 96 percent of the lay leaders described the Cooperative Program as the efficient way of funding missions for Southern Baptists."

Survey results indicate "we have much more work to do in educating that missions at home and abroad are supported by the Cooperative Program," he added. "If there is to be an expansion of our missions work, there is a need to increase percentage giving of undesignated receipts."

Although the survey gives indications of support for the Cooperative Program and an apparent willingness from churches to increase their Cooperative Program giving, Craig said: "Significant concern is evident in identifying exactly what kind of appeal will motivate additional CP support.

"It is clear that we now have a diverse constituency which will not respond to a single, simple appeal. We will need to address every audience, from pastors in every category to the church leadership, in a very personal and caring manner."

The survey results provide a "clear indication of Missouri Baptists' readiness and openness to increase their Cooperative Program support, but we will have to communicate more effectively to overcome the diversity of opinion and understanding about what Cooperative Program is and does in supporting missions," Craig said.

Of the multiple options provided respondents for why they would support an increase in Cooperative Program giving, no one option received more than a 42 percent positive response. Among the options most widely selected, respondents said they would encourage increased CP giving if:

- "My church had more direct contact with missionaries." 42 percent
- "We would get a personalized analysis of where my church's Cooperative Program dollars go." 38 percent
- "We understood more of what the Cooperative Program is and does." 37 percent
- "We were convinced there is critical need for more missions funds." 32 percent
- "The denominational controversy was resolved." 31 percent
- "My church had an established budget percentage giving to the Cooperative Program" 28 percent

Other options received less than a 20 percent response.

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Variety is key
to reach students

By Frank Wm. White

N-SSB

Baptist Press
9/6/89

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Reaching students for Jesus Christ requires a variety of techniques, Southern Baptist leaders of campus ministry reported during student leadership conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

In Arkansas, Diane O'Connell created Sharing Words About Truth (SWAT) teams to witness to students when she was associate director of student ministries at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

O'Connell now is director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

Using the idea of police SWAT teams going into life-threatening situations and rescuing persons in danger, O'Connell said her SWAT teams rescued people from eternal life-threatening situations.

"I train them by modeling. I go with a student and let them watch me witness until they feel comfortable doing it," O'Connell said.

"They have enough information about witnessing to save the whole world. What they need is a way to get the courage through modeling and role playing," she said.

Two years ago, during her first year at the University of Central Arkansas, seven teams led 13 students to make professions of faith in Christ, O'Connell said.

SHARE seminars are a part of the BSU training each semester, O'Connell continued. The SHARE seminar is developed by the student ministry department of the Baptist Sunday School to help BSUs develop as a witnessing team.

Last year, O'Connell worked part time at both the Conway and Little Rock campuses. As a full-time director in Little Rock, she plans to develop SWAT teams this year and seek other methods that might be effective there.

A Billy Graham crusade in Little Rock in September will be a springboard for evangelistic efforts on the campus, she said. She has challenged each BSU officer to invite at least five people to attend the crusade with them.

In Boston where Southern Baptists aren't as well known, evangelistic work requires patience in relationship development, according to Betsy Draper, director of student ministries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Draper began a student ministry work at MIT four years ago using Outreach Bible Study at the same time her husband, David, was planting a church at Beacon Hill. Some of the people who were first reached through Outreach Bible Study (an evangelistic study for non-Christians usually conducted away from a church location) still are involved in the BSU and the church.

MIT students have begun to organize a fraternity Bible study, but taking advantage of situations with non-Christians can be the most effective times to witness, said Scott Carroll, BSU president at MIT.

On the Boston University campus, Sheila Hughes developed friendships with students on her dorm floor as a way to witness.

"When students realized I wasn't going to force Christianity on them, they were willing to listen to me," Hughes said.

Hughes is the nucleus for developing a BSU at Boston University. At least 15 prospects are interested in the BSU, and a group likely will start this year, she said.

At Auburn University in Alabama, MasterLife and continuing discipleship training have equipped students for witnessing, according to students Michele Richardson and Wayne Odom, both of St. Petersburg, Fla.

The BSU has about 40 to 60 students who attend MasterLife groups each year. Those groups form the basis of prayer and witnessing teams that visit on campus each Monday night.

Odom and Richardson said they have had opportunities to lead persons to make professions of faith through the witnessing and prayer groups.

Through the group prayer effort, students have been able to work together in reaching other students, Odom said. Richardson said there seems to be a greater interest in evangelism among the BSU students as school starts this semester, and leaders are planning to make evangelism a bigger part of BSU activities this semester.

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More tithers would ease
SBC finances, Fuller says

By Joe Westbury

N-HMB

Baptist Press
9/6/89

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Practicing the biblical principle of tithing would solve Southern Baptists' current financial crunch and provide more funds for evangelizing the unchurched, the former chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee said.

Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., was the featured preacher for the annual Home Missions Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

He told conference participants that although 14 million individuals call themselves Southern Baptists, less than 2 million tithe a portion of their income through the church.

Those 2 million individuals currently give \$200 million, but if all Southern Baptists tithed, we would receive \$300 billion annually," he said.

Fuller painted a vision of what could be accomplished with that amount of income: Southern Baptist agencies could multiply their budgets seven to 25 times, pay off debts, place more missionaries on the field "and we would have plenty left to feed the hungry of the world."

"Such a scenario staggers the mind," he said.

Fuller expressed dismay over churches that channel offerings away from the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified giving plan. Mainly as a result of the denomination's 10-year-old controversy, some churches have begun withholding contributions or using "negative designation," a procedure that sends money to some SBC causes but withholds it from others that the churches dislike.

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"Withholding of Cooperative Program funds and negative designation is not the way Southern Baptists operate. As long as I have been in the pastorate I've seen feet change theological shoes several times, but you will never see me leading my church to withhold funds from the Cooperative Program," he said.

However, the greatest obstacle to evangelizing the nation's unchurched population is "plain, ordinary, garden-variety universalism," Fuller said.

A growing number of Southern Baptists "name the name of Jesus but do not believe an individual is lost without Christ and that you absolutely need him alone to get to heaven," he contended.

A total of 1,238 people attended the weeklong home missions emphasis.

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Teamwork heals
teen's hurt heart

By Ken Camp

F - Texas

Baptist Press
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DALLAS (BP)--Thanks to an international network of cooperation and compassion, 16-year-old Atupele Mwaihojo soon will return home to Tanzania after a successful heart operation at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

One year ago, doctors in eastern Africa discovered that Atupele had a heart valve problem, probably stemming from a childhood case of rheumatic fever.

"The surgery could not be done in Tanzania," said Atupele's father, Donald, who is pastor of Majengo Baptist Church in Mbeya. "But my missionary, Ralph Boyle, took care of everything."

Boyle, a Southern Baptist hospital administrator and foreign missionary, began making contacts in the United States. With the help of physician Nathan Graves of Grapevine, Texas, arrangements were made to admit Atupele to Baylor University Medical Center.

Recognizing the uniqueness of the situation, both the hospital and the attending physicians agreed to donate their services.

With that hurdle crossed, Boyle's home church, Trinity Baptist in Amarillo, Texas, and another congregation there, San Jacinto Baptist Church, purchased airline tickets for Atupele and her father.

Boyle also helped Mwaihojo and his daughter obtain the necessary documents for travel. Within one week after making application, Mwaihojo and Atupele had their passports and visas in hand.

The pair left Dar es Salaam en route to Dallas, by way of Amsterdam and Atlanta July 16. Arriving at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport July 17, they were met by Charles Mwakitwile, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, who greeted them in their native Swahili and provided them with ground transportation.

In a delicate operation nine days later, Atupele had one heart valve replaced and another repaired. Her recovery since then has been steady, and her father said she should be able to return to Tanzania by the end of August.

Martha Calhoun of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas is one of several Texas Baptists who has ministered to the Mwaihojos during their hospital stay. For the last 12 years, she has been a volunteer with Friends Who Care, a hospital visitation ministry of Park Cities and Wilshire Baptist churches in Dallas.

"We've taken them out for their first taste of Texas food. They've had hamburgers, french fries and chicken fried steak. They really enjoyed it, but Atupele didn't like the gravy on her steak," she said, chuckling.

Chuck Msewe, a therapist-counselor and member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, helped translate for Atupele and her father and bridge cultural barriers for them.

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Msewe, his wife, Rose, and their three children joined Calhoun, Jane Mumford of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, and chaplains from Baylor Hospital in ministering to Mwaihojo while his daughter was in surgery and in visiting with them afterward.

During her hospitalization, Atupele has been lifted up in prayer and has received prayergrams from First Baptist Church of Euless, said Carra Kumpe, coordinator of the church's intercessory prayer ministry.

"It has been very nice -- the cooperation and the friends we have made, especially Martha, Peggie (Powell of Park Cities Baptist Church), Jane and Chuck," Mwaihojo said.

"Our Christian faith tells us to love our brothers. This father and daughter coming from their home thousands of miles away through the cooperative aid of Baptist institutions and individuals is a living example of that teaching," said Boone Powell Jr., president of Baylor University Medical Center.

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'Last Crusade' a fitting finish
to Texas-Australia partnership

By Kendall Kirk

F - Texas

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DALLAS (BP)--"Texas-Australia Partnership and the Last Crusade" was a happy ending to six years of partnership with last week with Australia and Texas.

Since the effort began in 1984, more than 2,000 volunteers have traveled to Australia from about 400 Texas Baptist churches since the partnership began in 1984. With responses to this year's crusade still being tabulated, the previous missions have resulted in 2,659 professions of faith, 1,235 rededications, 111 baptisms and 84 commitments to special service.

Teams of pastors, church and association staff members, and lay persons went to 28 churches throughout Melbourne and surrounding areas during the most recent crusade in Victoria.

Their work was jointly coordinated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist Union of Victoria, with the invitation for the mission partnership coming through the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

"We are not a Christian nation," the arriving 115 Texans were told by Alan Nunn, pastor of Templestowe Baptist Church and a member of the Victorian Baptist evangelism task force. "We welcome you in the name of Jesus because you can help change our nation."

The Australians saw the coming of the Texans as a catalyst that opened new doors for evangelism. "This has given us opportunity for bold inviting," said Jack Measham, pastor of churches at Lara and Teasdale in Victoria. "It encouraged us to do what we wouldn't have done otherwise, invite neighbors who are not members of the church to our meetings."

The involvement of laypeople in missions impressed the Australians. "We were encouraged to see ordinary people, not experts, active in ministry," said Ray Hutson, pastor of Castlemaine Baptist Church. "They set an example for us."

A number of ethnic ministries took place during the crusade. Texans from Cambodia, Vietnam and Chile worked with ethnic congregations in each of these language groups. The Cambodians reported five professions of faith and eight commitments to vocational Christian service, and the Hispanic congregations saw 12 first-time decisions for Christ, 30 rededications and five young persons committing themselves to missionary service.

Tuan Nguyen, pastor of the Vietnamese congregation of Richardson Heights Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas, said, "I have seen servanthood, enthusiasm and a hunger for the gospel in the ethnic congregations in Australia." Nguyen observed that the week resulted in his starting to speak Vietnamese with an Australian accent.

At the conclusion of the recent Victoria crusade, Baptist leaders from Texas and five Australian state unions met to look back over their involvement in the partnership.

"The results can be measured not only in decisions and rededications, but in a change in spirit," said John Simpson, mission at home superintendent for Victoria.

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"Through this partnership, our people have rediscovered the basics: inviting friends and neighbors and learning that they do respond. It has given us the experience of seeing how you Texans go about the business of ministry."

Victorian Baptists hosted the first partnership crusade in 1984 and the final one this year. Partnership crusades went to Tasmania and South Australia in 1986.

Texas Baptists traveled to western Australia in lay renewal teams in 1985 and for a crusade in 1988. New South Wales hosted crusades in 1985 and 1988.

"The partnership with Texas has brought us inspiration and encouragement," said Norman Nix, director of evangelism for New South Wales. "It has helped us to see a 300 percent increase in the number of churches started in the past three years."

Nix also credited the first partnership with Texas in 1985 with bringing about the highest number of baptisms since 1979.

Partnership Missions also involved sending Texas Baptist college student teams to work in Australian churches during the summers. Chris Herbert, coordinator of Christian development for Victorian Baptists, was responsible for the students in his state.

"We have been amazed at what the students have done", said Herbert. "They have shouldered almost a full pastoral load in many cases -- everything but marrying and burying people. Many of the students were catalysts in starting ministries that continue to go on."

Four Texas Baptist students went to Victoria the first year, and their success led to the placement of teams the following years throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

Texas Baptists also assisted by sending resources and key leadership to work with their counterparts in Australia. The Mission Texas emphasis on starting new churches has provided motivation and a model for Australian Baptists.

"More new churches have been started in the past four years in Victoria than any other four-year period in our history," said Phillip Bryant, church planting field worker in Victoria.

"The church planting strategy for Texas has been taken and adapted to use in Australia, and it has worked extremely well. On any given Sunday, 1,800 people are attending churches here that didn't exist less than four years ago."

James Semple, director of the state missions commission of the Texas convention, expressed appreciation to Australian Baptists for what Texas Baptists have received from the partnership.

"We should be thanking you," said Semple. "This has been such a great blessing to our state. Our people come home revived and inspired, saying if it can happen in Australia, it can happen at home."

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Spanish Baptists name leader,
create 2 boards

By Linda Fisher & Mike Creswell

N-FMB

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LERIDA, Spain (BP)--Spanish Baptists have elected their first full-time general secretary and established boards for missions and stewardship.

The moves were approved by the Baptist Union of Spain during its annual meeting Sept. 1-3. Spanish Baptist leaders and Southern Baptist missionaries working in Spain called the actions important milestones in the 7,000-member union's development.

"I believe the historic moment has arrived to restudy and refocus our missions efforts," said Jorge Pastor, chairman of the five-member committee that drafted the changes.

The general secretary post and two boards are the first part of a three-phase plan taking the union through the year 2000. Two other parts, dealing with 1992 and beyond, will be voted on later. The year 1992 is a strategic one in Spain: Barcelona will play host to the Summer Olympics, Seville will be the site of a world's fair and Madrid will hold a cultural fair.

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Manuel Sarrias, the new general secretary, has been volunteer union secretary since 1982. A layman, he will step down from an administrative post with a gas company. Sarrias, 41, is a member of First Baptist Church of Valencia. He also has been as administrator and teacher at a lay leadership school operated by North Levante Baptist Association.

"Missions and evangelism continue to occupy the most important part of our budget, and with that we've said it all," Sarrias said. "The union should have some common goals to inspire the churches and to allow us to work in cooperation to meet those goals that churches alone could not carry out."

Sarrias will coordinate union ministry, work with the 13-member executive committee, handle finances and promote "whole life" stewardship, a recent union emphasis that stresses devoting one's total resources to God. He was elected to a five-year renewable term.

Southern Baptist missionary Dennis Hale was elected director of a new board, called the Ministry of Evangelism and Missions, which will focus on strengthening churches and encouraging evangelism on the local-church level. Hale, who has worked in Spain more than 25 years, will continue his work as church starter in Oviedo, northern Spain, in addition to the new assignment. He will work with representatives from eight regional church associations.

The new board will develop mission programs to be used by local churches and oversee the growth of new and small congregations. It also will work closely with the Spanish Woman's Missionary Union and Spanish Youth Union.

The board will focus on the "most promising" new churches and try to arrange support from existing churches nearby. "Our fundamental purpose should be missions, from the largest to the smallest church of our union," Pastor told union delegates.

The plan backs away from setting up a board for foreign missions, discussed in recent years. Instead, the initiative for foreign mission efforts will be left to local churches and associations. The Spanish union participates in the European Baptist Mission, the foreign mission program of the European Baptist Federation.

The new stewardship board will promote general stewardship and oversee the union's existing loan department and retirement program for pastors. A director, to be elected later, will work with the general secretary and four elected representatives.

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Volunteer teams take
'Here's Hope' to Buffalo

By Mark Wingfield

F- HMB

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BUFFALO, N.Y. (BP)--With help from volunteer mission teams, a small church in the inner city of Buffalo, N.Y., multiplied its witness 800-fold this summer.

As a result, 75 people made professions of faith in Christ, and another 700 indicated interest in knowing more about the gospel. That means the 30-member mission, Buffalo Bible Fellowship, recorded two professions of faith for every one member.

The one-year-old mission averages 45 in attendance but has had as many as 17 visitors at one time since the project began.

The door-to-door blitz was the idea of Pastor Ed Stetzer, a Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteer. Stetzer coordinated 10 volunteer mission teams from five states who knocked on 36,000 doors during an eight-week period. The 200 volunteers distributed "Here's Hope Buffalo" packets and shared a personal witness when possible.

Stetzer said, he wanted to participate in the simultaneous "Here's Hope" revivals coordinated by the Home Mission Board next spring. However, because of the nature and size of his congregation, a revival meeting was not practical.

"The theme was so good, and the materials were so good, we felt we really needed to use them. But it was about a year too early for a revival for us," he explained. "So we adapted the materials to our own needs."

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"Here's Hope" was the perfect theme for Buffalo, Stetzer said, because the city has gone through a major transformation in the past decade. Blackened smokestacks at the deserted Bethlehem Steel yard stand silent, a symbol of the city's industrial past being replaced by a high-tech future of glistening office buildings.

"Buffalo is really at a crossroads," he explained. "There are many people in transition. They need hope."

With help from the Home Mission Board, New York Baptist Convention and several sponsoring churches, Buffalo Bible Fellowship printed "Here's Hope" tracts, posters and brochures. The "Here's Hope Buffalo" packets contained printed materials about the church and reply cards to receive free Bibles or to enroll in Sunday school or home Bible study.

Church members will make "follow-up" contacts during the next few month with the 700 people who returned reply cards Stetzer said. Four members have volunteered to work full time on the project. The church will mail birthday cards, make personal visits and host special events for the prospects.

In addition to knocking on doors, the volunteer mission teams conducted backyard Bible clubs and gave concerts.

Stetzer said he is pleased with the response, especially for a northern urban area populated primarily with nominal Catholics. "The first answer is often, 'I'm Catholic,' and they shut the door," he explained.

Stetzer and his wife, Donna, started Buffalo Bible Fellowship last year after moving to New York from Georgia. The congregation meets in rented space downtown on Sundays but branches out into neighborhood home cell groups during the week.

Volunteer mission teams assisting Buffalo Bible Fellowship came from First Baptist Church, Enid, Okla.; First Baptist Church, Kingfisher, Okla.; West Rome Baptist Church, Rome, Ga.; Praise Mill Baptist Church, Douglasville, Ga.; Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, Silver Creek, Ga.; First Baptist Church, Conyers, Ga.; First Baptist Church, Andalusia, Ala.; Valley View Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; Amherst Baptist Church, Buffalo; and the Baptist Convention of New York summer evangelism team.

Summer missionaries Kim Allen from First Baptist Church of Deport, Texas, and Christi Bass from Calvary Baptist Church in Rome, Ga., also assisted with the project.

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(BP) photos available upon request from Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press