



BAPTIST PRESS

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 14, 1989

89-132

FMB hopes journeyman spirit
will live on in new program

By Marty Croll

F- FMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Foreign Mission Board officials have said they want the spirit of Southern Baptists' 25-year-old Journeyman Program to live on, although the program has become only one part of a broader approach to using non-missionary personnel overseas.

Board officials have said they are responding to a growing number of Southern Baptists interested in serving overseas as non-missionaries. Beginning in 1990, they plan to send these people through the International Service Corps, a new program they hope will meet needs overseas more effectively, said Tom Prevost, director of the international lay missions department.

International Service Corps bases its goals on those first adopted by the Journeyman Program, which was designed to offer recent college graduates a chance to serve overseas alongside career missionaries for two-year terms. The new program also employs a system of screening, selecting and training personnel similar to that developed for journeymen. But it brings together mission personnel of all ages and categories -- including journeymen -- who take an overseas assignment for four months to two years.

International Service Corps has drawn criticism from some Baptists, including former journeymen, who believe the Foreign Mission Board is diminishing the importance of the journeyman contribution. But board officials have denied this, saying they are using the successful Journeyman Program as a model for a broader spectrum of personnel.

To maintain the program's contribution, they have created a journeyman "option" in International Service Corps for college graduates under age 30 who want to attend special training and debriefing sessions and serve as journeymen. Financial support will be available for those who meet board qualifications and match job needs overseas.

The promise of a salary, housing, paid travel expenses and benefits has made participation in the Journeyman Program possible for young college graduates. Board officials acknowledge they must continue to financially support people in this age range, and they have set money aside to do so.

Part of the impetus for the International Service Corps grew out of frustrations experienced by board staff in handling an unwieldy system of screening and financial assistance for non-missionary personnel besides journeymen, they said. In the past, Southern Baptists serving under various board programs have performed similar jobs but received different levels of support, Prevost said.

Six groups of International Service Corps personnel -- including one journeyman group -- are to be assigned annually to overseas posts after attending screening conferences and orientation. Board staff members reported the number of inquiries is running high concerning the International Service Corps and its journeyman "option."

The board gave birth to the Journeyman Program in 1964, but its original planners said they had no idea it would take on the prestige it has among Southern Baptists -- or that it even would last. Some suggested its success relates to the growing world awareness Southern Baptists have developed. Others credited the program with helping to pioneer that awareness.

During its tenure, the Journeyman Program has assigned some 2,100 two-year personnel in 25 years, or about one-fifth as many people as the mission board has assigned to career missionary posts in its history. And supporters of the program have pointed out that the impact on missions journeymen have made -- and still are making -- is immeasurable.

--more--

Because they were taught to be interpreters of missions once they came home, journeymen who completed their terms overseas became known as "returned" instead of "former" journeymen. Implicit was the idea that as long as they remained interpreters, they remained journeymen. In fact, some journeymen who take their status seriously will say -- only partially in jest -- that there is no such thing as a former journeyman.

To that extent, the program took on a life of its own. And as word spread that other programs might replace or absorb the Journeyman Program, some returned journeymen feared for that life. Some expressed anger and hurt.

Board staff members feel they have been misunderstood by backers of the program, said Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel. Administrators emphasize they will maintain a "track" for Southern Baptists who want to identify with the program, he said.

Through the International Service Corps journeyman option, board staffers said they seek to build on the history of the Journeyman Program and the involvement of student workers throughout the nation who for years have steered young people into it. The new option represents just another step in the evolution of the program, they said.

Change is not new to the Journeyman Program, which has been reshaped almost continuously as the Foreign Mission Board has honed its direction during recent years. But change has not always been easy, because of the nature of young people and the special methods needed to relate to them, board leaders noted. Today, about as many perceptions of the Journeyman Program exist as there are "graduating classes" from it, Spurgeon said.

Administrators agreed, however, that one of the program's longstanding trademarks has been the camaraderie experienced among journeymen as they trained, worked overseas and came home together.

Early planners of the program stated one of their aims was to develop young people into "world citizens." Trainers put participants through rigorous orientation sessions causing them to examine their cultural ties and giving them a "self-selection" opportunity to decide whether they could change enough to serve effectively overseas. But a negative byproduct sometimes emerging from this emphasis was a group mentality tinged with elitism, board administrators said.

The board will continue to stress personal development among International Service Corps personnel, but only in the context of meeting overseas needs, said Prevost. Because of the program's design, administrators will be able to fill specific jobs more effectively with whatever personnel they have available, he noted.

Since the beginning of the Journeymen Program, Southern Baptists have changed their attitude toward overseas travel and participation in foreign missions, observers said. In 1964, heading overseas for two years was not so popular, Spurgeon noted. The first group of journeymen numbered only 46, but during the past few years thousands of Southern Baptist volunteers have flown abroad to work alongside missionaries for anywhere from 10 days to several years.

Upon their return, they have become interpreters of missions, board leaders said. Southern Baptists from all walks of life now are finding their way to the mission field, with or without the help of Foreign Mission Board programs, officials noted.

The board has tried to keep pace with changing attitudes by developing as many non-missionary opportunities as possible, they said.

During a 25th birthday celebration of journeymen at board offices recently, Spurgeon told a crowd of several hundred people that because of the new International Service Corps program, "Most of you could have a journeyman-type experience if you are willing to commit the required time."

--30--

(Note to state paper editors: Additional information relating this story to your state will be mailed from the Richmond (foreign) bureau of Baptist Press.)

Barring unmarried, pregnant student
was within policy, Baylor maintains

By Ken Camp

N-TEXAS

DALLAS (BP)--Although a former Baylor University student has filed suit alleging that she was forced to leave school because of an "unwritten policy" barring pregnant, unmarried students, university officials have maintained the action was in keeping with the Texas Baptist school's long-standing general disciplinary policy.

Former Baylor student Dawn L. Bonner and the Dallas Civil Liberties Union filed suit Sept. 7, charging that Baylor officials had violated her civil and constitutional rights by forcing her to leave school in October 1987 because she was pregnant and unmarried. In her suit, Bonner claims Baylor failed to inform her of an "unwritten policy" requiring pregnant, unmarried women to leave school.

Although Baylor University currently has no policy explicitly addressing the issue of unmarried, pregnant students, Eugene W. Baker, special assistant to the president at Baylor, noted the school has a 144-year-old set of general principles requiring students to conduct themselves "in accordance with Christian principles as perceived by Texas Baptists."

The disciplinary policy, as published annually in the Baylor student handbook and the university's catalogs, states: "Baylor University is under the patronage and general direction of the Baptist denomination of the state of Texas, and it is expected that every student will conduct himself or herself in accordance with Christian principles as perceived by Texas Baptists."

"Personal misconduct either on or off campus by anyone connected with Baylor detracts from the Christian witness Baylor strives to present to the world and hinders full accomplishment of the mission of the university."

The policy notes that disciplinary action will be taken by Baylor in response to conduct that violates Christian principles and states that familiarity with the university's disciplinary policy is the students' responsibility.

At the Sept. 22 meeting of Baylor trustees, an ad hoc committee led by Milton Cunningham, pastor of Westbury Baptist Church in Houston, will present recommendations regarding a specific policy statement regarding unmarried, pregnant students.

The committee was in place several months before Bonner's lawsuit was filed and was not appointed in response to any specific incident, Baker said.

In her suit, Bonner alleges that Baylor's disciplinary policy is discriminatory because an unmarried man is not required to leave the university if he fathers a child. The suit requests a permanent injunction prohibiting Baylor from enforcing its disciplinary policy upon female students, declaring its conduct to be in violation of the Constitution and the Statutes of the State of Texas, and requesting compensatory and exemplary damages.

William D. Hillis, Baylor's executive vice president for student affairs, said the university's long-standing disciplinary policy applies both to male and female students. If university officials knew a male student had fathered a child out of wedlock, that student would be required to leave school, he added.

Bonner also claims she was told by a counselor at Baylor that she could stay in school if she obtained an abortion. Baker said every Baylor official with whom Bonner was known to have spoken has been questioned, and all deny making any such statement.

Hillis said the matter has been referred to legal counsel.

--30--

Teachers, professionals needed
in Hong Kong, leader says

By Marty Croll

N-FMB

Baptist Press
9/14/89

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist teachers and other professionals could play a vital role in keeping Hong Kong stable and prosperous, said a Baptist leader who sits on two of the British colony's government councils.

--more--

Daniel Tse, president of Hong Kong Baptist College, visited the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's offices in Richmond, Va., Sept. 6. He addressed members of the board's global strategy group.

China's crackdown on student demonstrations in June -- added to worries about Hong Kong's return from British to Chinese control in 1997 -- has left many of the 5.7 million residents of Hong Kong with deep questions about their future, said Tse.

Situated on the southern coast of mainland China, Hong Kong has become an Asian hub of trade and commerce. It is an international community viewed as economically vital both to Asia and the rest of the world.

"As 1997 comes, we want to demonstrate that we will be able to preserve the present system (in Hong Kong), including the Christian community," Tse said. Although a British colony, Hong Kong has been allowed self-rule except in national defense and foreign affairs, Tse said. China has promised Hong Kong a similar autonomy with a "one-country, two-system" arrangement.

Partially because of an upgrade in the Hong Kong school system, more than 1,000 teaching jobs are vacant this fall, Tse said. In addition, some teachers have moved into technical careers to make a move out of Hong Kong easier if they decide to leave before 1997, he added.

The school system, a conglomeration of public and primarily Christian private schools that operate with government assistance, allows Bible teaching and active Christian organizations, he noted.

As the countdown to 1997 continues, the people of Hong Kong need the influence the Christian community can bring, and Southern Baptists could strengthen that community, Tse said. Increasing numbers of Christian leaders are working to help develop Hong Kong's representative government, and six Christians besides Tse serve on the government's Legislative Council, he said.

"We hope that together we can exert Christian influence in the society in such a way that good examples can be set in Christian ethics, in social justice and in the respect of humanity as the crown creation of God," Tse said. As a member of Hong Kong's Executive Council, Tse advises the governor on the formation of policy. On the Legislative Council, he helps make laws and examines government policies for quality and effectiveness.

On his visit to Richmond, Tse was accompanied by Kerry McGlynn, director of Hong Kong's Economic and Trade Office in New York. Both of them told mission strategists to continue their involvement in Hong Kong.

"People are asking me, 'What can we do as Americans to help Hong Kong?'" McGlynn said. "I'm telling them, 'Keep on doing business with us, just as you have for the last 140 years.'"

Tse arrived in North America in August to meet with various Baptist groups and U.S. government officials. He also planned to attend a meeting Sept. 15 with evangelist Billy Graham concerning Graham's participation in an evangelistic crusade scheduled for Nov. 13-18, 1990 -- Graham's third in Hong Kong.

Tse reminded mission strategists that the Baptist seminary in Hong Kong will continue to play a vital role in developing the Christian community there. But it is expensive for Hong Kong Baptists to produce a seminary graduate, and when they do, the new minister will find a job in the United States, he said.

In an interview, Tse proposed that the Foreign Mission Board might want to "join forces" with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to send seminary teachers as missionaries to Hong Kong. Southern Baptists would gain from such an arrangement every time a Hong Kong seminary graduate is called to the United States to lead a group of Baptists who have moved from Hong Kong, he said.

"It would be a drain on Hong Kong if we don't make such a provision," Tse said. As people leave Hong Kong in fear of 1997, the seminary will need to "produce people not just for Hong Kong, but for the United States, too."

Southern Baptist missionaries in Hong Kong, however, recently have begun to implement a strategy urging missionaries to move beyond institutions where they traditionally have served. The strategy aims to leave Baptist schools and institutions in the hands of Hong Kong Baptists and encourages missionaries to spend their time starting new churches, said Bill Wakefield, the board's vice president for Asia and the Pacific.

"The Foreign Mission Board may have to adjust its strategy to meet the requirements of the day," Tse said. "There's a need for more career missionaries who are professionals but are committed to Christian ideals."

--30--

RTVC reports ACTS
network is stable

N-CO
(RTVC)

Baptist Press
9/14/89

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Members of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 11-12, were told the number of households able to receive programs of the ACTS television network remains stable in the face of predictions to the contrary.

The commission also adopted a \$7.75 million operating budget for 1989-90 and learned experimental delivery of its radio programs via satellite would begin in September.

Mickey Castleberry, chairman of the commission's affiliate relations committee, said that previously some people had predicted ACTS would suffer a major decline in number of network households if the network was not sold to outside interests.

The predictions, he said, were not accurate. He announced there had been a net increase of ten cable systems affiliated with ACTS. With 9.1 million households, ACTS has "a potential viewing audience in excess of 23 million persons," said Castleberry, a pastor from Montgomery, Ala.

RTVC officials said the number of households available has remained stable for the past six months. In April, a deal to sell ACTS to a for-profit Texas corporation collapsed.

The \$7.75 million operating budget for the Radio/TV Commission and ACTS would enable the agency "to pay the remainder of our short term operating loan and service the long term debt of the commission as well as continue at about the present level of operation," according to interim president Richard McCartney.

Radio vice president Ed Malone told the board that the commission would begin transmitting its six radio programs four days each week on the same Galaxy III satellite used by the ACTS network. The audio signal is a subcarrier on the same transponder used by ACTS, Malone said, and would be done without additional cost.

Malone said the signal would be available to radio stations and to satellite receiver dishes. He said the results of the experiment would be monitored closely to determine if expansion of the service would be indicated in the future.

Michael Hamlet, chairman of the commission and chairman of the search committee seeking a new president for the agency, told trustees the committee is developing a "profile of the kind of the kind of person needed to fill the office." He asked trustees for their prayers as the committee does its work, and said the search "will move carefully and methodically."

He distributed a profile questionnaire to the board to provide guidance to the committee.

Jimmy R. Allen, resigned as president of the commission in June after more than nine years in office. His successor is to be nominated by a five member search committee: Hamlet, North Spartanburg, S.C. pastor; Harold Brundige, Martin, Tenn. attorney; Ernie Helton, Grove City, Ohio retiree; Jewel Morris, Ft. Smith, Ark. businessman; and T.W. Terral, Baton Rouge, La. director of missions.

Terral, a past chairman of the RTVC trustees, rotated off the board in June, but was asked to remain on the search committee, although he will not be able to vote on a successor to Allen.

The search committee met privately for almost three hours, but made no announcement concerning their deliberations.

--30--