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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES Historical Commission, SBC Nashville, Tennessee

October 31, 1989

89-156

Volunteers feed in California;
prepare to start S.C. reconstruction By Tim Yarbrough

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers have started a limited feeding effort to assist residents displaced by the California earthquake after serving a record 350,000 meals following Hurricane Hugo in South Carolina.

A team of 11 Alabama volunteers arrived in California Oct. 24, said Eddie Pettit of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, who is coordinating California disaster efforts. The group started serving meals from Ramsey Park in Watsonville, which is located about 14 miles southeast of Santa Cruz.

Reggie Quimby, missionary in residence at the Alabama State Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department, said the group has prepared and served an average of 1,100 meals daily since its arrival in the area, which is occupied mainly by Hispanic and Mexican migrant farm workers.

"Our reception has been good," Quimby said. "We had a Spanish service yesterday (Sunday, Oct. 29) and had four receive the Lord. There are many opportunities to talk with individuals and share the gospel.

"A lot of these people did not have homes. They were living in trucks and trailers and were doing the best they could" when the earthquake struck.

Alabama volunteers are serving Mexican food instead of its normal Southern-style cuisine, Quimby said: "We're serving tortillas, hot sauce, salsa, pinto beans and cooking a lot of chili con carne. It's a first for us."

Damage to downtown Watsonville, population 25,000, was extensive, he reported: "All of downtown is blocked off. It looks like a lot of it will have to be bulldozed down. A lot of houses have had their foundations knocked out from underneath them."

In addition to preparing and serving meals to the farm workers, Quimby said, the group is working with Arthur Road Baptist Church in Watsonville to distribute canned food to individuals in the community.

In South Carolina, the Southern Baptist relief effort has entered another phase -- that of reconstruction -- after 13 mobile disaster units from 11 states prepared and served a record 350,312 meals in 16 days following Hurricane Hugo, which struck the Carolina coastline in September.

Reconstruction of homes and churches is expected to start soon as the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Administration complete cases and release funding, said George Bullard, director of the missions division of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

"I really think we will see reconstruction start in the next 30 days on a limited basis," Bullard said.

The need for volunteers in the hurricane-ravaged state has been met for now, Bullard said. Volunteers from Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio, Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia have teams ready to start to work as soon as they are given assignments.

Ben Connell, South Carolina Brotherhood director, said the outpouring of assistance from states outside South Carolina has been phenomenal.

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Before major repair work can begin on individual homes and churches, clearance from the Red Cross and FEMA must be secured, Bullard stressed.

"Volunteers need to be sure to work with the proper officials to make certain the cases have been closed before doing work," he explained.

More than \$500,000 has been received by the South Carolina convention to assist Hugo victims. Money received has come from churches, associations and individuals throughout the United States, he said. Several thousand dollars continues to be received at the convention headquarters in Columbia daily.

Money received for disaster victims is being used exclusively for food and shelter-related efforts, Bullard said. No administrative costs will be covered by the fund.

Individuals are eligible for assistance up to \$2,500, while churches are eligible to receive up to \$10,000, depending on need.

A warehouse designed to house building materials, related supplies, furniture and appliances donated to assist in reconstruction efforts has been opened in Columbia, Bullard said.

"We are in need of furniture and appliances in good to excellent condition ... used or new," he said. "Please, we do not need any food or clothing."

South Carolina convention officials are working to "link" churches during the rebuilding process.

"So far we have linked 50 churches together to help them with continual cleanup, repair and reconstruction for the church facility and houses within the church community," he said.

In addition, South Carolina Southern Baptists are working with state officials to assist in the "Adopt-A-Family" program, Bullard said.

"We are responding to a request by Iris Campbell, wife of Gov. Carroll Campbell, to have churches adopt families and help," he said.

So far 50 churches or groups within churches such as Sunday school classes, have adopted families to assist, Bullard said. Any group interested in adopting a family should contact its state Brotherhood director. People who wish to organize reconstruction crews should work through their state Brotherhood directors, he said.

More than 1,000 Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers prepared meals and assisted in cleanup efforts following Hugo, according to preliminary reports from the various state conventions. Connell estimated that more than 5,000 volunteers assisted Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts in the state.

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Baylor codifies, clarifies
sexual misconduct policy

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
10/31/89

DALLAS (BP)--Trustees of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, unanimously adopted a policy statement authorizing administrators to respond on a case-by-case basis to incidents of sexual misconduct by students, faculty or staff at the Texas Baptist school.

The policy was approved Oct. 27 following a report by a special committee appointed by trustee Chairman W. Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, to study the university's policy on sexual misconduct.

The committee was appointed after Baylor President Herbert H. Reynolds asked the trustees at their May 1989 meeting to review the university policy on incidents of sexual impropriety.

"This policy provides the administration full latitude to implement sanctions ranging from censure to expulsion for those guilty of sexual misconduct and is completely consistent with the university's practice since its founding in 1845," said Milton Cunningham, chairman of the special committee.

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Misconduct is understood to include -- but not be limited to -- sexual abuse, assault or harrasment; incest; adultery; fornication; and homosexuality, according to Cunningham, former pastor of Westbury Baptist Church in Houston. Effective Nov. 1, Cunningham is director of denominational ministries at Baylor.

The policy notes that human sexuality is a gift from God for the purposes of procreation and for the uniting and strengthening of husband and wife in self-giving love. "These purposes are to be achieved through heterosexual relationships within marriage," it specifies.

The policy emphasizes that in disciplinary procedures Baylor will seek to respond redemptively to all parties involved and will maintain the highest standards of Christian morality.

"Constructive forgiveness will guide all efforts," Cunningham said.

Baylor's policy on sexual misconduct came to the forefront when a former student filed suit alleging that she was forced to leave school because of an "unwritten policy" barring pregnant unmarried students.

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 at that time Baylor had no policy explicitly addressing the issue of unmarried pregnant students, Eugene W. Baker, special assistant to the president at Baylor, noted the disciplinary action was in keeping with the school's 144-year-old set of general principles.

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."

The policy further states, "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 which violates Christian principles and states that it is the responsibility of students to become familiar with the university's disciplinary policy.

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Nashville joins 'tidal wave'
against pornography

Baptist Press
10/31/89

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--As a "tidal wave" of opposition to pornography sweeps across America, more than 40 major communities nationwide have eliminated obscenity and child pornography in recent years, Alan Sears, executive director of Children's Legal Foundation, said in Nashville.

"A groundswell of public support for the battle against pornography did not exist five or six years ago," Sears told more than 400 people attending a breakfast of the Chamber of Commerce. "There has been a change in attitude all across America toward pornography."

Sears, a former member of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, was executive director of the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography that spent a year examining pornography in America.

"Pornography is the ultimate in hate literature," Sears said. "It makes human beings hate themselves because no human being can perform at the levels pornography describes. Viewers of pornography develop a warped view of reality that turns into hatred. Pornography leads men to say to themselves, 'If I can't measure up, it must be her fault.'"

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Studies have indicated that the largest category of consumers of pornography are youth who are in the 12-17 age range, who acquire pornography even though they cannot legally purchase it.

Sears referred to the results of a recent study done of high school and junior high school students in Houston as evidence of how widely exposed to pornography teenagers really are:

- One hundred percent of the boys surveyed had seen pornography.
- Ninety-one percent of the boys and 82 percent of the girls surveyed had seen pornography frequently. The average boy had looked at pornography extensively more than 16 times.
- The average age at first exposure to hard-core pornography was 13.5 years.
- Thirty-one percent of the high school boys surveyed said they had tried out actions portrayed by pornography.
- Younger boys appear to be the most impressionable. The desire to "try things out" was found to be greater in younger boys.

Pornography does harm to society that goes beyond its influence on consumers, Sears said.

"One of the most famous pornographic films, 'Deep Throat,' was made at a cost of about \$35,000. It netted \$35 million in profits," he said. "The Colombo organized crime family used that profit to buy an island in the Caribbean and airplanes with which to go into cocaine traffic.

"Pornography victimizes those who are involved in the production of pornography. Three of the most famous male 'stars' have died in the past 12 months of AIDS. One of them bragged that he had sex with more than 1,000 men and women."

If a broad-based coalition of citizens has its way, Nashville will join the list of more than 40 communities nationwide that have eliminated obscenity and child pornography from their neighborhoods.

The Nashville Coalition Against Pornography has been established, with Joe M. Rodgers, former ambassador to France, as its chairman. A Christian layman and businessman, Rodgers has assembled an advisory board of more than 300 people representing the entire community. Physicians, attorneys, ministers and other citizens have joined the coalition. The list includes the present and former mayors of Nashville, several members of the city council and a U.S. representative.

"There are 107 video outlets, over 50 of which are distributing the kind of material which is illegal," Rodgers told the crowd. "We are going to be nice to these people. We are going to ask them to stop selling this material. We're going to give everyone a chance to abide by the law. Then we will use other means.

"The key is for us to understand what we're talking about. Pornography is the greatest misuse of women imaginable."

Sears was in Nashville to participate in two days of coalition meetings under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

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Church must accept responsibility
for America's sins, Blackaby says

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
10/31/89

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--America's ills never will be healed until the church takes responsibility for the corporate sins of the nation, Henry Blackaby told lay renewal leaders.

Blackaby, prayer and spiritual awakening leader with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, spoke at the conclusion of the National Renewal Conference in Charlotte, N.C. The conference is sponsored annually by the Home Mission Board's lay evangelism department.

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Blackaby painted a picture of a nation headed for destruction. "Twenty years ago we could never have imagined that our nation would be in such chaos," he said.

"Sin is running rampant," he added, citing an inventory of ills: drugs, abortion, child abuse, society's refusal to care for its poor, AIDS, teen suicide, moral failure of pastors.

Despite that chaos, "this is a great time for a God-centered renewal," Blackaby said. He gave examples of recent meetings where renewal and revival have begun -- indications of a coming spiritual awakening, he said.

However, nationwide spiritual awakening will only take place as religious leaders take responsibility for the nation's sins and lead people into repentance, Blackaby continued.

"If we as leaders do not recognize that the condition of the nation rests squarely on the condition of the church, we have misread our Bibles," he said. "As go the people of God, so goes the nation.

"Our nation is in this condition because the church is in the condition it is. And we will not recognize it.

"The heart of what I'm trying to say is that the leadership has got to learn to have a corporate identity with the sin of the people of God."

He called on church leaders to take responsibility for the sins of the nation even if they personally were not living in sin: "You may be perfect with God, but if you're a leader, you've got to identify your life with the sins of the people. I've been in too many prayer meetings where we've prayed at the people who sinned because we think we're OK."

Instead religious leaders should be like Jesus, who took upon himself the sins of the world even though he was without sin, he said.

"Some say, 'Even if the nation goes down, even if the convention goes down, I know I'm walking with God.' That's an incredible betrayal of leadership."

Blackaby recalled how Moses led a sinful Hebrew nation through the wilderness for 40 years even though he did not share their disbelief.

"Are you leading an individual life?" he asked. "Where are the tears for your brother, lest he be destroyed?"

"Many people today when they see Southern Baptists going in a direction they don't like, leave Southern Baptists. I think God is going to call them into accountability for abandoning leadership.

"You may be right with God. If so, stand with the people before God and say, 'We have sinned.'"

The remedy for corporate sin is genuine repentance, Blackaby said: "We are not good at repenting. We rededicate our lives, but we do not repent.

"Without repentance, the nation does not stand a chance.

"If Southern Baptists were to absolutely, genuinely repent as one people, it could begin the greatest spiritual awakening ever."

About 100 people attended the four-day conference, where participants heard testimonies about lay renewal and marketplace ministries.

They also participated in a MarketShare Brunch as an example of one way to do marketplace evangelism. Local Christians invited unchurched friends to attend the Saturday brunch at a local hotel. The program featured soprano Beverly Terrell and Christian humorist Van Crouch.

CORRECTION: Please change the second sentence of the 12th paragraph of the 10/27/89 BP story titled "Missouri Baptists launch new Cooperative Missions Program" to read:

Although the \$15 million budget represents no increase over the 1989 budget, 35.4586 percent will go to the national budget, up from 35.1672 percent this year.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Two generations commissioned for
1st time as home missionaries

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press
10/31/89

ATLANTA (BP)--For the first time, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board commissioned two generations -- parents and their married daughters -- as missionaries during the same commissioning service.

And it happened twice during one service at First Baptist Church of College Park, Ga., on Oct. 29.

The two extended families were among 100 missionaries from 23 states and Puerto Rico commissioned by the Home Mission Board for service in 26 states and Canada.

Eddie and Mary Henson of West Virginia, the parents of Lisa Dean of North Carolina, were commissioned at the same time as their daughter and her husband, Jim.

And Bill and Jane Alexander of Texas, the parents of D'Lisa McIntosh, were commissioned alongside their daughter and her husband, Scott.

Bill Graham, director of the missionary personnel department for the Home Mission Board, said the service was the first time that parents and their children had been commissioned together.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis advised the 100 missionaries to follow four principles in their lives to maintain the spiritual, mental and physical strength necessary to be effective missionaries.

Lewis urged the missionaries to discipline their lives to include daily prayer, daily Bible study, daily visitation and witnessing, and daily personal commitment to sacrificing their own desires in submission to God's will.

Dellanna O'Brien, newly elected executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, led the prayer of dedication. She prayed for joy in times of sorrow, peace in times of conflict, hope in times of despair and the strength to love the unlovely.

McIntosh, a church planter apprentice assigned to start a new church in Grand Blanc, Mich., in suburban Flint, told of his conversion experience. He said being commissioned during the same service as his wife's parents was special, but said the greatest experience of his life came in 1980 when he accepted Christ.

Before he became a Christian, McIntosh said, he was a homeless carpenter who lived in the back seat of his 1969 Ford Fairlane. Because he spent all he earned on "honky-tonking," he couldn't afford an apartment.

The daughter of a Baptist pastor in Austin, Texas, invited McIntosh to join a youth group from Lanier Baptist Church attending the Super Summer Celebration sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas. "It was a free place to stay for the weekend, so I went," he said.

McIntosh was amazed that the church youth group accepted him and treated him "like family." He accepted Christ in the first service of the youth rally at Reunion Arena in Dallas and "got goose bumps when I asked Christ into my heart."

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Three months later, McIntosh felt God was calling him into the ministry, enrolled in Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, where he met D'Lisa Alexander. They were married in 1982 and went to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1987.

Bill Alexander, Mrs. McIntosh's father, also was a student at Midwestern Seminary during the same period. Alexander, 53, had attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, from 1968 to 1971 but had not completed his degree. In 1987, after all three of his daughters had completed college, he went back to seminary. Alexander and McIntosh both received their master of divinity degrees the same day last May.

Now they both are church planter apprentice missionaries of the Home Mission Board starting new congregations in Michigan. Alexander serves in Carleton, about 85 miles south of the Flint area, where his daughter and son-in-law are starting a new church.

Eddie Henson, commissioned as director of missions for Greater Huntington Baptist Association in West Virginia, has been a pastor in West Virginia since 1963. His daughter, Lisa, grew up as a preacher's kid in a family and church with a strong emphasis on missions.

Mrs. Dean and her husband, Jim, were commissioned for resort missions work in the Smokey Mountains of North Carolina. For the past 10 years, North Carolina Baptists and West Virginia Baptists have been linked together in a partnership missions effort that concluded this year.

"It was really a special experience to be commissioned during the same service," Mrs. Dean said. Growing up in a home with a strong emphasis on missions, she said it was natural for her to follow in her parents' steps. She has been involved as a summer missionary in Michigan, in Bryson City, N.C., and in the Highland Lakes resort ministry at Marble Falls, Texas.

Dean helped start the resort missions work he now directs in the Maggie Valley and Bryson City area of North Carolina, first as a summer missionary in 1985 and later as a US-2 missionary. He and his wife are graduates of Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky., and he is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

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Additional information and photos to be sent from the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press to Baptist state papers in Texas, Michigan, North Carolina and West Virginia.

Baptist named chief of
Civil Air Patrol chaplains

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
10/31/89

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)--For the first time in its 48-year history, the Civil Air Patrol has a Southern Baptist as its chief of chaplains.

Lt. Col. Eugene Elmore of Maiden, N.C., assumed the post this fall. He previously was chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol's mid-east U.S. region, which encompasses six states and the District of Columbia.

Elmore joins a national team headed by another Southern Baptist, Maj. Gen. Eugene Harwell of Charlotte, N.C. Harwell has been national commander of the Civil Air Patrol for the past three years.

Of the Civil Air Patrol's 1,041 chaplains nationwide, 112 are Southern Baptists. Although not appointed missionaries, they are endorsed for service by the chaplaincy division of the convention's Home Mission Board. Civil Air Patrol chaplains of all faiths must be endorsed by the appropriate agencies of their denominations.

Both Elmore and Harwell said they would like to see more Southern Baptists involved in Civil Air Patrol chaplaincy because of the ministry opportunities.

Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. As a non-profit organization, it coordinates volunteer emergency services such as search-and-rescue missions.

Nearly half of the organization's 70,000 members nationwide are teenagers enrolled as cadets. Chaplains instruct those cadets in a series of moral leadership courses.

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That opportunity attracted Elmore to Civil Air Patrol chaplaincy 10 years ago. Although now retired, he was a Baptist pastor in North Carolina for more than 30 years.

As a pastor, he said, some doors to ministry automatically were closed to him. "You can walk through doors as a chaplain that you can't get in as a pastor," he noted.

"Here's a way to reach young people that do not go to church. I felt if I belonged to Civil Air Patrol and worked with cadets, I'd be able to reach people for Christ, whether they joined my church or not."

"Chaplaincy is the glue that ties it all together," explained Harwell, who has 31 years of experience in Civil Air Patrol. "The chaplain is a friend and companion, someone anyone can readily have access to. I feel everyone has a need on occasion for the help of a chaplain.

"We have a lot of members who do not go to church. If you approach them as a chaplain, they'll listen to you. If you come as a local pastor, they'll turn you off."

Civil Air Patrol's adult membership includes men and women from all walks of life -- from congressmen to gas station attendants. Like the cadets, these adults also come from diverse religious backgrounds.

"We have some adults who have never been in a church in their lives whom the chaplain is able to reach," Elmore said.

"It's a whole new world of mission work. To me, it's a mission. It's not something you get material rewards for. But you get paid in knowing you've helped someone along the way."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press

Brazilian pastors bolster
Portuguese evangelism effort

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press
10/31/89

LISBON, Portugal (BP)--More than 200 Portuguese made decisions to accept Jesus Christ during a two-week national campaign that brought 23 Brazilian Baptist pastors and a layman to Portugal as evangelists.

Although they speak the same language, many of the Brazilians expressed amazement at cultural differences between Portugal, where evangelism is difficult, and their country, which is responsive.

In many locations, Portuguese who had never entered an evangelical church building attended services and heard the gospel for the first time, workers reported. Twenty-nine people publicly accepted Christ as savior at 29-member Abrantes Baptist Church in central Portugal, where a Brazilian Baptist pastor, Josue Oliveira preached.

The campaign, held in 50 churches and missions, culminated a year of preparation by church and convention leaders, said Jose Sousa, general secretary of the Portuguese Baptist Convention, which sponsored the effort. Trained counselors in the churches will begin following up to offer discipleship training to people who made decisions, including 150 who rededicated their lives to Jesus Christ.

Sousa praised the visiting Brazilians, many of whom spent long hours in door-to-door visitation or handing out gospel tracts on the streets before preaching in evening services.

Although disappointed with the number of decisions, Sousa said two major goals for the campaign were met.

It generated a spiritual awakening among Baptists, he said: "We mobilized our lay people for personal evangelism. That's a great need in Portugal."

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It also brought convention churches together within regions for greater cooperation in missions and evangelism and convinced some leaders of the need for continuing cooperation. The convention's 57 churches and 20 missions are scattered the length of Portugal, but only one regional association of churches exists, in the north. In one area north of Lisbon, Baptists took a first step during the campaign towards organizing a local association.

The campaign was the third in recent years involving visiting Brazilian Baptists. Campaigns and a constant emphasis on evangelism have been key factors in making Portuguese Baptists one of the faster-growing Baptist unions in Europe, from 3,200 members in 1982 to some 4,000 today.

Evangelical Christians number less than 1 percent among Portugal's 10 million people. Although the country traditionally has been Roman Catholic, Portuguese Baptists say many of their countrymen are abandoning Catholicism except for traditional rites of baptism, marriage and funerals. At the same time, a search for spiritual truths has led to gains in membership among groups such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Mormons grew at a rate of 50 percent in 1988 and now claim more than 17,000 members in Portugal. They now have some 600 missionaries there, compared to some 200 evangelical missionaries of all affiliations. Portugal is the fourth-most rapidly-growing field for Mormons, according to Oivind Benestad of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship in Coimbra, who has studied the group's growth in Portugal. Southern Baptists have assigned 10 foreign missionary couples to Portugal; Brazilian Baptists, five.

"Brazilians are very interested in the evangelism of Portugal," said Belardin A. Pimentel, pastor of the Baptist Church of Campo Grande in Rio de Janeiro and a veteran of five such evangelism campaigns outside Brazil. "From the start, we have sent missionaries here, and it's a special place for us."

Yet, for the visiting Brazilians, the trip required adapting to a culture much less open to spiritual decisions than Brazil, where Baptist growth has skyrocketed in the past decade.

The Brazilians were cautioned not to expect the rush of decisions that has been the rule in their country during recent years. But they did attract a number of Portuguese who came just to hear a Brazilian speak.

"If I hadn't been prepared for what to expect here, I would have been devastated," said Brazilian Enilton de Souza Araujo, pastor of 480-member First Baptist Church in Linhares. University students and those who have moved to Portugal from Angola or other locations seem more open to the gospel than the Portuguese, he said.

"Evangelism is more difficult in Portugal than in Brazil," said Paulo Roberto Seabra, pastor of 784-member First Baptist Church in Forteleza, Brazil, and president of the 4,500-church Brazilian Baptist Convention. "In Brazil, people in the streets are very open, but here that's not the case. When I tried to talk to people on the streets here, they accept it very politely, but not in their hearts. They listen politely, but for the most part, that's all."

At Coimbra Baptist Church in northern Portugal, Pastor Daniel Machado said members distributed 20,000 tracts to homes, held open-air meetings in the city square, hung a large crusade-promoting banner from a key city bridge and placed notices of the campaign in the newspaper. Machado, president-elect of the Portuguese Baptist Convention, and Brazilian speaker Fausto A. Vasconcelos also were on local radio programs twice.

That represents progress for Baptists, who had no freedom of religion and kept a low profile in Portugal until 1974. "Work is more difficult here than in Brazil, perhaps because of family tradition and deep-rooted things in the Catholic mind," said Vasconcelos, pastor of 2,985-member First Baptist Church in Rio de Janeiro, second-oldest Baptist church in Brazil, and president of Brazilian Baptist Home Mission Board. "It is not easy to stand up and go down that aisle.

"I'm Brazilian and used to the Brazilian system. When you give an invitation, it's not uncommon to have 30 persons come down front -- not in all churches but in many. Here, you can go for a week and not have anybody come forward."

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Among more than a dozen people who responded during Machado's preaching at Coimbra Baptist Church were two women, a nurse and a government worker who had never been inside a Protestant church building. They told Vasconcelos they were very impressed with the service and the message. "It spoke directly to my heart," one woman said.

At Oeiras Baptist Church in Lisbon, Brazilian Araujo and Southern Baptist missionary Don McCain assisted a woman who publicly accepted Christ as savior but was threatened with abandonment by her husband if she returned to the church. After a tense week with several meetings, the man finally allowed her and their children to attend Sunday evening services, although he himself did not come.

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Fisher Humphreys to join
Beeson divinity faculty

Baptist Press
10/31/89

BIRMINGHAM Ala. (BP)--Fisher Humphreys has been named a professor of divinity at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School.

Humphreys, theology professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary since 1970, will join the Samford faculty in January. He will teach in the area of systematic theology.

A specialist on theological method and the doctrine of God, Humphreys is the author of 10 books and numerous articles. He has been pastor of churches in Mississippi, Alabama and Illinois. He has been editor of New Orleans Seminary's journal of theology and ministry, The Theological Educator since 1975.

Humphreys is a graduate of Mississippi College, Oxford University, New Orleans Seminary and Loyola University.

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