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January 3, 1990

90-1

Missionary's CPR effort
saves daughter's life

N-FMB

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Vaughn Ross saved his daughter's life with the aid of cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation -- and a parking place.

Ross, of Plainview, Texas, planned to wait with the car while his wife, Johnene, and 17-year-old daughter, Renae, visited the dentist in a downtown medical building. Renae Ross had several wisdom teeth removed that morning and was returning to the dentist to receive a pain relief injection.

In Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, traffic during business hours has long outstripped the city's roads and parking areas. A parking spot, even an illegal one, is rare. Ross decided to wait by circling the block a few times, since the office visit would last only a few minutes.

However, after dropping off his wife and daughter, a parking space opened near the dentist's office. Ross darted into the space and walked into the building to join his family.

Not long after Ross sat down in the waiting room, Mrs. Ross called out for help from the dentist's examining room. Ross hurried to the back room. He found his daughter conscious, but unable to breathe or control her limbs. Her respiratory system had shut down. Moments after receiving the pain relief injection she had remarked, "I can see two of you, Mom." Then her body twitched and she stopped breathing.

When the dentist's attempts to revive Renae were ineffective, Ross sent his wife out of the office to find a doctor and began working through the steps of CPR he had learned years ago.

"I hadn't even thought about my CPR training for years but when I saw Renae lying there, God gave all the knowledge back to me," he said.

Mrs. Ross soon returned with a doctor, who had stayed late in the building. He gave the girl a shot to counteract an allergic reaction to the pain medication and commended Ross for doing the right thing. The doctor said Ross probably saved his daughter's life.

A portable oxygen tank in the dentist office was found -- an item almost as rare in Nairobi as a parking space -- and the oxygen mask was placed on the girl. She soon began to breathe better.

She was hospitalized for observation and released the next day.

Charges dropped against
missionary in Tanzania

By Donald D. Martin

N-FMB

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (BP)--A charge of "careless driving resulting in death" against a Southern Baptist missionary in Tanzania was withdrawn in a court hearing Dec. 29.

Tim Tidenberg, 29, of Loving, Texas, was involved in a car accident Nov. 15 which resulted in the death of a young Tanzanian boy. Tidenberg said the accident occurred when the child jumped into the road as he drove by, hitting the left side of the car.

The charge, which carried a minimum sentence of two years in jail, was dropped because of a lack of evidence.

The case's resolution came one year to the day after Tidenberg and his wife, Ann, arrived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to begin work as church developers. They have two children, Johnathan, 6, and Laura, 4.

Tidenberg said he was surprised when charges were brought against him because there had been no mention of reckless driving by police at the scene of the accident. Members from one of the churches Tidenberg works with visited the boy's family and found no malice against Tidenberg. The boy's father, an Anglican, called his son's death "God's will" and not Tidenberg's fault.

However, five days later, on Nov. 20, police asked Tidenberg to sign a report that stated the child was crossing the road and Tidenberg failed to stop. He refused to sign.

With the case behind him, Tidenberg said he is now able look at long-term plans. "So many things have been on hold. The possibility of being transferred always hung over any plans we considered. We can now begin to put down roots."

Both Tidenberg and his wife grew up in Africa. Tidenberg's parents were missionaries to Tanzania, and he and his family now live in the house where he grew up.

"We can show people that we are not just passing through. That's very important to folks here," he said.

Tidenberg works with five Baptist churches in Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanzania. He plans to help start three more in the next year.

He also plans to visit the boy's family soon. "When things calm down I want to go and talk and pray with them," he said.

Right now, Tidenberg, his family and a group of church members are planning a celebration. "We are going to celebrate the withdrawal of the case and our one-year anniversary, (which marks) the end of a very long year," he said.

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China crackdown may have
spurred church growth

By Michael Chute

F-FMB

Baptist Press
1/3/90

NANJING, China (BP)--Six months after China's military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, Chinese Christians have yet to experience the negative repercussions many Western and Chinese observers predicted.

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Chinese Christian leaders say church life and work continues as usual. Christians crowd into worship services; church buildings, confiscated during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, continue to reopen at a steady pace. The China Christian Council reports an even greater interest in Christianity following the June 4 violence in Tiananmen Square.

"I did fear criticism of bourgeois liberalization (Western thought) might have adverse effects on the church, but this has not happened," said Bishop Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), president of the China Christian Council and chairman of Chinese Protestants' Three-Self Patriotic Movement.

Some overseas Christian groups have criticized Ding and the China Christian Council's actions since the government crackdown on demonstrators. These groups say the council, which initially supported the pro-democracy movement, should have taken a stronger stand against the government.

When asked for his reaction, Ding related an old Chinese proverb, "Correct yourself if your critic is right; stick to your way and work harder if he is unjust."

"For the good of the church and its witness to Christ, we do not approve of confrontation as our principle in our relation to the state," Ding added. "There is space for negotiation and dialogue and criticism."

Immediately after the crackdown, church attendance sagged for several weeks but returned to normal, according to observers in China.

"The churches here are full now," said Ronnie Winstead, a teacher in Shanghai sponsored by Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization. "If you don't get there 30 minutes early, you don't get a seat. There's a natural seeking for something to hold onto, to put trust in. That's a definite factor right now."

Other evidence that churches apparently have weathered the crackdown:

-- Christians at Grace Church in Shanghai reported the baptism of 400 new believers one Sunday in July.

-- Two of Shanghai's 24 churches started Sunday schools for children last summer -- a move many other churches may follow. Teaching the Bible to children was forbidden during the Cultural Revolution to prevent "indoctrination" of young people. Since they began reopening in 1979, churches generally have not offered formal religious training for children.

Many Chinese churches reportedly are turning educational buildings into meeting rooms for overflow crowds that cannot be seated in packed sanctuaries. Sometimes the crowds are two or three times larger than can be accommodated in the sanctuaries.

-- Another Christian seminary opened during the fall. Thirteen seminaries have opened their doors since Nanjing Theological Seminary reopened in 1980.

Although recent church growth is encouraging, Bishop Ding and other Christian leaders fear outside criticisms may cause problems for the Chinese church.

"Such attacks show a singular lack of Christian charity," Ding said. "I hope anti-China infiltration from abroad will stop so that our churches can continue to enjoy the understanding and good will of the people."

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"Sympathy in society for the church is a very important factor. We know about attacks, for we were severely attacked during the Cultural Revolution. We now see clearly the attacks and Christians' suffering were preparations for stronger witness. This persecution brought us in closer relationship with the rest of the Chinese people. It enhanced our credentials before our people. They are readier today to hear what testimony we Christians are bearing."

Ding also called an earlier report of the disbanding of Three-Self organizations an "entirely untrue rumor." The Three-Self movement -- which stands for self-government, self-support and self-propagation of churches -- represents Protestants in relations with China's government and society. Chinese Christians are discussing how to "reorder the relationship" between the Three-Self organizations and the churches, Ding said. The relationship needs to improve, he admitted, but disbanding the Three-Self movement is not being considered.

"No matter how good three-self is as a principle, the important thing is not to display it as an exhibition piece but to apply it," Ding added. "Chinese Christians want to see that our church is governed well, is supported well and does the work of Christian propagation well."

Reordering is needed in cases where local or regional Three-Self organizations handle affairs and make decisions which should be left to churches, Ding explained. Three-Self groups work closely with government and secular organizations to better implement religious freedoms, and encourage Christians to serve the people by building up society materially and spiritually, he said.

Rather than problems with the government, some Chinese Christian leaders say problems are coming from within the church itself. A major problem rests with those who seemingly want to divide the church, according to Bishop Shen Yi Fan of Shanghai.

Shen called some Christians' uncooperative spirit an "internal crisis." Also, he said efforts to revive old denominational loyalties were disruptive in a post-denominational period.

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Leadership crisis threatens
to weaken Chinese church

By Michael Chute

F - FMB

Baptist Press
1/3/90

NANJING, China (BP)--The Christian church in China has grown so rapidly over the past few years that church leaders fear it might collapse under its own weight.

Unprecedented growth over the last 10 years has stretched the ranks of an already-depleted pool of church workers, say Christian leaders. They believe the lack of trained workers threatens both the substantial gains made since the Cultural Revolution and prospects for future growth.

The church "is growing in numbers of Christians but the infrastructure is rather weak," explained Stephen Ting. "We're not used to working with so many people. This isn't a situation of 'shepherds seeking flocks' but rather 'flocks seeking shepherds,'" said Ting, who works with Amity Foundation, a service organization begun by Chinese Christians and other citizens.

A church opens in China every 36 hours and demand for workers far exceeds the limited supply of trained leaders. Christian leaders call this the greatest challenge facing the Chinese church today.

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Christians worship in more than 6,000 church buildings. Tens of thousands of other Christians meet in homes, according to the China Christian Council. The council reports a total of 5 million Chinese Christians, but estimates from other organizations place the figure much higher -- ranging up to 50 million. Yet fewer than 1,000 ordained ministers work in China.

The country's seminaries operate overtime to produce leaders for a mushrooming Christian population. Thirteen Protestant theological schools now train 800 students throughout the country. One-third of the students study at Nanjing Theological Seminary. But church leaders warn this traditional approach to theological education moves too slowly to meet pastoral needs of the churches. The situation has forced seminaries to expand already-bulging enrollments and find alternative ways to train church leaders.

Church workers are in short supply because of "the long period of ultra-leftism in Chinese political life" that culminated in the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, explained Bishop Ding Guangxun (K.H. Ting), president of the China Christian Council. "During that period, we weren't able to carry on proper theological education. We only had the Nanjing seminary in all of China and it could not admit many students. Therefore, most of our ministers are aged or becoming aged."

The Nanjing seminary was shut down during the height of the Cultural Revolution. Communist Red Guards turned the seminary complex into a regional headquarters for their radical organization. They burned textbooks and teaching materials on the front lawn. The seminary library lost more than 90 percent of its books.

Four years after the Cultural Revolution ended, Chinese Christians reclaimed the seminary property in 1980. Classes didn't begin again until 1981.

But even if the seminary had not been closed for 10 years, "we would still be suffering from a shortage of trained pastors," said Stephen Ting. "The years after the Cultural Revolution we witnessed tremendous, record growth of the Christian church in China. We'll have to struggle with this leadership crisis for many years."

Although 6,000 churches have opened or reopened since 1979, the vast majority of Chinese Christians worship in home meetings under lay leaders, most of them untrained.

The Nanjing seminary is the only one that offers upper-level and graduate courses. In January, seven of the seminary's most promising graduate students will travel abroad to receive further theological training in the United States, Canada and England. Church officials expect all seven to return to the seminary as teachers.

The other 12 Chinese seminaries, which church leaders say are more like Bible schools, were established in provincial centers to meet immediate pastoral needs of churches in those areas.

"What you see at (Nanjing) seminary is not typical of the Chinese church," said Stephen Ting. "Here the church has a lot of real properties used by the government," which pays rent for using those buildings.

"But the seminary in Hangzhou, for instance, is much different. The dormitories are so crowded that living conditions are horrible. Over 10 students are crowded into one room. As you walk in you see nothing but bed after bed. That's the result of shortage of funds."

Because of this, leaders say, Nanjing seminary has become Chinese Christians' national training, publication, and conference center.

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Besides regular theology classes, the Nanjing school offers correspondence courses for lay leaders throughout China and short-term training for leaders in outlying provinces. Each year the seminary in brings lay leaders from one province to study. Leaders from three provinces -- many of them leaders of home meeting points -- already have been trained in this one-year program.

The bimonthly "Nanjing Theological Review," published by the seminary, offers Bible studies, sermons, questions and answers on the Christian faith, and stories for use in preaching. The magazine has 40,000 subscribers, mostly lay workers in towns and villages who have no formal theological training and no other way of getting it.

Editor Wang Wei Fan related a recent letter from Yunnan province that said, "The pastor died many years ago. Now we want this reading material as our pastor." Another letter from a lay leader said: "I am a Christian only five years, but I became a lay preacher three years ago, so I don't know what to preach. I often read the sermon (in the review) in the worship service."

The Nanjing seminary also provides Bible study material and sermons on cassette tape for use by Christian groups meeting in house churches. The weekly sermon at St. Paul's Church in Nanjing is taped, duplicated and sent out to home meeting groups.

Some Christian leaders worry that the number of church workers may never catch up with the rapid increase of Chinese Christians. Bishop Ding does not share this pessimism, saying that "sooner or later we'll come out of this leadership crisis."

But he noted the "work of pastoral care must be personalized" and admitted "pastoral attention is poor. This is a problem we are faced with now." It is particularly important in Chinese culture, which puts great emphasis on personal relations. In the past, Chinese ministers knew all church members personally. Now that is impossible as the church continues rapid growth.

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College students urged
to touch the world

By Linda Lawson

N-SSB

Baptist Press
1/3/90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--To touch the world with the gospel of Christ, Southern Baptist college students must break away from their American youth culture and become world citizens; they must break out of a self-centered, simplistic "baby theology" and become "mature, responsible Jesus believers," Nathan Porter told students attending the closing session of MISSION 90.

Porter, assistant director of the church and community ministries department at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told the more than 3,600 students attending the five-day national student missions conference:

"World citizens speak the languages of the world, not just English. World citizens live in world cultures. We must break out of our indifference. We must break out of comfort and safety if we are to touch the world."

"Students Touching the World" was the theme of the conference held at the Fort Worth Tarrant County Convention Center and sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in cooperation with 10 SBC entities, the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and the six SBC seminaries. Students came from 44 states and more than 800 campuses.

More than 600 students made public commitments to missions and other types of decisions during MISSION 90.

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Through drama, music, video segments and speakers, the point was hammered home throughout the conference that many Christians and churches are bowing down to the cultural gods of materialism and pluralism, the view that all religions lead to God and differences are a matter of personal choice.

Speaking during daily "World View" sessions, Bill O'Brien, special assistant to the president of the Foreign Mission Board, called materialism a "cancer in the body of Christ" and said pluralism "is slowly and surely paralyzing the church.

"Could your generation be the one among Southern Baptists who dares to march to the beat of a different drummer -- counter to culture?" he asked.

Students were urged to be servants and missionaries, to allow God to be in control of their lives.

Esther Burroughs, national evangelism consultant for women at the Home Mission Board, challenged the students to make taking the love of God to a lost world their top priority.

But she warned: "Our culture says, 'get.' Jesus says, 'give.' Our culture says, 'be all you can be.' Jesus says, 'die to self.' Our culture says, 'find yourself.' Jesus says, 'lose yourself.' Culture says, 'me first.' Jesus says, 'the last shall be first.'"

Students did not come to MISSION 90 just to talk about their faith; they came to practice it. More than 600 students signed up for 420 slots to spend an afternoon involved in 23 ministry projects in the Fort Worth area while another 100 shared their faith in shopping malls, an apartment complex and one of the cities toughest neighborhoods.

Ben Freeman, a student at Paris (Texas) Junior College, spent two and a half years in state prison prior to his Christian conversion. He gave one afternoon to visit the East Side Boys Club and tell the young men "how Jesus Christ can change their lives and give them direction."

In the Marketplace -- 80,000 square feet housing 100 exhibits -- students could talk with 100 home and foreign missionaries, apply for missions and use computers to match job skills with foreign missions personnel needs.

Roxanne Huntington of Ruston, La., said she was surprised to learn all the ways Southern Baptists are sharing the gospel. "I didn't know my money went so far. It makes me want to give more to the Cooperative Program," she said.

Students could choose to attend nine seminars out of more than 180 topics ranging from tentmaking and bivocationalism overseas and in the United States to missions as a lifestyle and planting churches.

"God is looking for some people who are willing to take some risks and to die for him if necessary. Maybe you are one of them," missionary physician Sam Cannata told participants in a seminar on ministering to people with AIDS.

In only the second joint commissioning service of home and foreign missionaries, 10 foreign and 11 home missionaries were commissioned as speakers called for renewed dedication to world evangelization.

Randy Gallaway, whose initial interest in a missions career came at a similar conference in 1970, said, "Don't settle for being president of the United States if God has a different dream for your life."

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During the commissioning service, a new "Adopt-a-Missionary" program was launched in which church or campus student groups may "adopt" a missionary by committing to praying for and corresponding with the missionary. In return, the missionary will agree to share prayer requests and answered prayers.

In 50 global community groups which met each morning, students talked about cultural barriers to sharing the gospel and attempted, through simulation activities, to build bridges to communicate.

A total of 135 seminary and college students participated in MISSION 90 for credit through enrolling in a course, "Christianity in a Pluralistic Society," sponsored by the six SBC seminaries.

The call to missions is a call to sacrifice, said Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks. He called on today's college students to be the generation that will say, "I may die in his service, but I will not let the world die without hearing of God's love and forgiveness."

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Contributing to this story were Joe Westbury, Susan Todd, Ken Camp, Scott Collins and Jim Cox.

Students see missions up close
at MISSION 90 Marketplace

By Susan Todd

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Baptist Press
1/3/90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--It wasn't "just peanuts" to the students who tried to break the record at the MISSION 90 booth manned by Christy and Mark Edlund, Southern Baptist missionaries to Japan.

It was a test of skill in the use of chopsticks.

Students and missionaries alike tried to beat the clock as they picked up peanuts with chopsticks. Peggy Hooten, missionary to Kenya, left her booth long enough to try her hand. Her nine fell short of the record of 20 peanuts in 15 seconds.

"Coming from Africa, I've done pretty well," said Hooten.

More than 100 exhibits sponsored by Southern Baptist Convention agencies were featured in The Marketplace, which occupied 80,000 square feet of exhibit space during the four-day national missions conference in Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 27-31.

There were more than 3,400 students registered for the conference, which was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's student ministry department in cooperation with 10 other Southern Baptist Convention agencies -- the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and the six SBC seminaries.

Glynda Hall, Baptist Student Union director at Dyersburg State Community College in Dyersburg, Tenn., relived her memories of MISSION 80 at the "Write a Missionary" booth.

"I'm writing Susan Puckett serving in Taiwan," Hall said. "She was my BSU director when I attended MISSION 80. "Through my time at Blue Mountain College I began to focus more on ministry and what I needed to do with my life.

"I owe a lot of who I am as a campus minister to her. I thought it would be appropriate to write her and tell her that," said Hall.

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Other students made their own memories while exploring the corners of The Marketplace. And they also encountered people stationed in the hall to represent mission challenges.

"Mildred" the bag lady sat on a street bench as she asked passers-by for a quarter. In 40 minutes she made \$1.26.

Frank Wharton of Knoxville, Tenn., sold flowers, allegedly for the Unification Church. "I've gotten a lot of wide-eyed looks -- some eyes as big as Buick hubcaps," he said. However, few people made an attempt to talk with him.

"People are making a wide berth for me. No one has even tried to witness to me," he said.

Beth Williams, also of Knoxville, had a totally different experience representing a drug abuser. "I don't think anybody in the SBC smokes because no one has had a lighter when I've asked for a light," she said fingering her fake joint of marijuana.

"I had three girls come back to me later and tell me 'You don't need this.' One girl asked me if I knew what was going on here." After the girl had shared her testimony, Williams said she had to confess to playing a part.

"I didn't want her to think she had failed, because I know how hard it is to witness," said Williams.

Other students used The Marketplace to explore ways in which they can respond to issues in the world.

The abortion booth was one of the first ministry booths students encountered to as they entered The Marketplace. Response to the need for abortion ministry was very positive, said Sylvia Boothe, Home Mission Board coordinator for Alternatives to Abortion Ministries.

"Mainly the students who stopped by wanted to affirm what I'm doing," she said.

"One young man stood and looked and wouldn't come in. I asked him if he wanted some literature on abortion. He said, 'It's too late for me, but I might take it for a friend,'" said Boothe.

Several students signed-on for missions while in The Marketplace.

Larry Bailey of the Home Mission Board said he had three students apply for the US-2 program during the first two hours the Marketplace was open.

"We've extended the Dec. 15 deadline because of this conference. We'll do the psychological testing on the applicants while they're here," he said.

Similarly, Foreign Mission Board personnel were pleased with the response they got from students. John Cheyne, director of human needs, said 10 students asked for immediate contact about volunteering for some assignment.

Roxanne Huntington of Ruston, La., found the computers which matched job skill with foreign missions personnel needs to be her favorite activity in The Marketplace.

"We came in here with all these questions about how we can be a part and found the answers," she said. "I've got a ton of stuff to read."

Huntington said she was surprised to learn all the ways Southern Baptists are sharing the gospel and the many locations in which they do it.

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"I didn't know my money went so far. It makes me want to give more to the Cooperative Program," she said.

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BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers from Fort Worth by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

AIDS ministry could spark
Christian revival in Africa

By James H. Cox

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(KY)

Baptist Press
1/3/90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--If Christian people will take the risks to care for the thousands of people dying with AIDS in African nations, revival could be the result, Southern Baptist missionary physician Sam Cannata told students attending a seminar at MISSION 90.

"God is looking for some people who are willing to take some risks and to die for him if necessary. Maybe you are one of them," Cannata told about 200 participants in a seminar on ministering to people with AIDS during the four-day national missions conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

More than 3,400 students participated in MISSION 90, which was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's student ministry department in cooperation with 10 other Southern Baptist agencies: the Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and the six SBC seminaries.

Cannata, 61, and serving in his fifth east African nation, on the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar, said: "There are only two things in life that are eternal -- God's Word and people. While God never told us it (our work for him) would be easy, he did tell us it would be wonderful."

Born in Houston and educated at Baylor University and the University of Texas Medical School, Cannata has served with his wife, Ginny, since 1958 in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Ethiopia, the Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania.

In an interview he noted AIDS has not yet stricken the island of Zanzibar as it has Uganda, another east African nation, where the disease is "running rampant."

Fifty percent of patients in a Ugandan hospital tested HIV positive recently. "In all likelihood, 100 percent of them will wind up with AIDS," said Cannata.

The number of AIDS patients in Africa is doubling annually, he said.

But he pointed out AIDS is almost exclusively a sexually transmitted disease in Africa in contrast to the United States where AIDS also is transmitted by drug users sharing needles.

"AIDS can change the history of the world," said Cannata. "It is definitely changing the history of Africa."

And while AIDS may be a "difficult" problem in America, Cannata called it a "catastrophe" in Africa.

However, he warned students that AIDS is not only an African problem but also will touch their lives.

He cited a survey which found that 85 percent of students at a major state university said they were sexually active. He warned that AIDS will increasingly become a crisis in the heterosexual community as it already has become in the homosexual community in the United States.

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"God is going to have to do something to bring us to our knees, to bring us to himself," said Cannata.

He urged Christian college students to "unapologetically lay claim" to God's Word and "live it" before fellow students.

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Link professions, ministry
college students urged

By Joe Westbury

N-AMB

Baptist Press
1/3/90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptist college students can make world evangelization a reality by linking their professions and their Christian ministries, Dwight and Mary Nordstrom told the 3,500 students attending MISSION 90 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mary Nordstrom, a doctor, and Dwight Nordstrom, a lawyer, returned to the United States last spring after three years in China where he had served as president of the U.S.-China Hi-Tech Forum in Beijing. He is currently president of Pacific Resources, Inc. while his wife completes a three-year residency. They plan to return to China.

The Nordstroms urged collegians to stretch their imagination with ways God could use their secular calling to evangelize the world's unreached people groups. They spoke during the Dec. 28 evening session of the national missions conference sponsored by the student ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in cooperation with 10 other Southern Baptist agencies -- the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and the six SBC seminaries.

"Tonight, 25 percent of the world's population -- 1.5 billion people -- live in nations closed to professional missionaries. But those same countries are wide open to businessmen who are needed to give economic stability to the economy," said Dwight Nordstrom.

"We have the best opportunity to reach the world with the gospel since Jesus Christ ascended nearly 2,000 years ago. We have the technology, the skills and the people. The 1990s can be our decade of destiny if we claim it for God," Mary Nordstrom said as she led the students in a spirited cheer of "Go Great Commission Christians!"

The couple then walked the students through an eight-step process of becoming Tentmakers, a program of the Foreign Mission Board to place businessmen and women on foreign fields as self-supporting individuals who share their faith through lifestyle evangelism.

The first step, mobilization, calls individuals to commit themselves to the concept. Second, through recruitment and screening, individuals choose a specific unreached people group who need a Christian witness.

Next come spiritual and professional training, which include two years of intensive language study and a year of cultural adaptation before service begins.

Placement, fourth on the list, consists of getting the job in the nation of preference. Dwight Nordstrom noted the Foreign Mission Board currently has 86 teaching positions in China alone that are waiting to be filled with qualified individuals.

Capitalization, or securing the financial base to get an individual through the first three years before becoming self-supporting, is next in the process.

"Remember, there must be absolutely no perceived link between you and a missionary agency," he stressed. "You are on your own as a businessman, but God is there with you."

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The final three steps -- evaluation and research, nurture, and networking -- are important because they teach the Tentmaker to constantly evaluate his ministry goals and implementation plans.

"We don't need Tentmakers who are Lone Rangers," he added, stressing the need for team players who depend on other Christians in the country for strength and support.

Citing the continued erosion of communism as an answer to the world's spiritual and economic problems, Mary Nordstrom challenged the students to "get ready for the adventure of your life -- the evangelization of the world by A.D. 2000.

"Will you be a part of it?" she asked.

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BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers from Fort Worth by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

Students practice their faith
in missions, evangelism projects By Ken Camp & Joe Westbury

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Baptist Press
1/3/90

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--More than 500 college students put the teachings of MISSION 90 into practice on the streets of Fort Worth, Texas, as they participated in hands-on missions and evangelism projects during two afternoons of the national Southern Baptist missions conference.

Seventeen Fort Worth agencies, ranging from the Salvation Army and local Southern Baptist churches to clubs for inner-city youth and food banks, offered 23 ministry project opportunities. Initially, about 600 students at the missions conference signed up for the 420 slots available.

Karen Park, mission projects coordinator and consultant in the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's international service department, termed the response "overwhelming. We had no way of knowing how many students would choose to participate," she said.

About a dozen professions of faith were reported by more than 100 students who shared their faith in seven locations ranging from shopping malls to an apartment complex to one of Fort Worth's toughest neighborhoods.

When Cristy Armstrong prayed for a conversion the night before she participated in the evangelistic outreach, she said she was simply making herself available to God and hoped at least one person would be reached through her vocal group's presentation at a shopping mall.

Less than 24 hours later, she led an eight-year-old boy to Christ at the Six Flags Shopping Mall. "That really made my week," said the Blue Mountain (Miss.) College freshman.

At the same time, another team from various colleges was shooting baskets on Hemphill Street. Before the afternoon was over, three professions of faith were registered as the students shared their faith with youth who joined them for the game.

One of the largest mission projects involved 40 students who sorted and packaged about 9,800 pounds of canned goods at the Greater Tarrant County Food Bank.

"This kind of experience gives the students an opportunity to see there is behind-the-scenes kind of work related to helping people," said Todd Lafferty, a native of Tucson, Ariz., and a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

"I hope a light will come on for some of them and they'll say, 'Hey, I can do something like this back home,'" he said.

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Sorting commodities at the food bank was familiar work to Keith Hall of California State University at Chico, Calif. In October, he and fellow BSU members sorted donated food items at a church-based emergency feeding station in Watsonville, Calif., following the massive earthquake that devastated much of the Bay Area.

"I learned then the most important thing in an emergency situation is that people need help, and we have a responsibility to help them," he said.

Stephanie Johnson of Francis Marion College of Florence, S.C., also had recent first-hand knowledge of the importance of Christian social ministries and Southern Baptist disaster relief. She and her family live on a farm near Sumter, S.C., and were on the receiving end of ministry following Hurricane Hugo in September.

"A church in Florida sent two vanloads of food, blankets and other supplies. It meant so much to us. This is a chance for me to sort of pay back by helping somebody else," she said.

Scott Porter of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., was one of 10 students who worked at the East Side Boys Club. Porter, a member of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, said he felt a calling into youth ministry while attending a fall retreat and volunteered for the boys club to gain experience working with young people.

"I've found out that kids are kids. These really are good kids here," he said. "They just need someone to show them the Lord."

Ben Freeman, a member of First Baptist Church in Paris, Texas, and a student at Paris Junior College, wanted to work at the boys club to help steer the young men there away from the lifestyle he had led prior to his Christian conversion. Freeman spent two and a half years in state prison for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and currently is on parole.

"I wanted to tell the kids my testimony and try to keep them from winding up in the Texas Department of Corrections," he said. "I wanted to tell them how Jesus Christ can change their lives and give them direction."

Five students played games and visited with children at the Fort Worth Boys Club, near the city's historic Stockyards District. Jimmy Spain of the University of Alabama in Huntsville said his only regret in working with the children was the limited time available.

"We're just here for the afternoon," he said. "I'm just trying to lay a few bricks for a foundation that someone else can build on later."

Laura Waina, a student at the University of Arizona in Tucson and a member of First Southern Baptist Church there, said she hoped the students' brief time at the boys club would make a lasting impression on the children there.

"I hope they will remember today as something special," she said. "I hope they say, 'Remember that day Laura came to talk with us and play games with us. She really cared.'"

MISSION 90 was sponsored by the student ministry department of the Sunday School Board in cooperation with Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board and six SBC seminaries.

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BP photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers from Fort Worth by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

Home, foreign missionaries
commissioned at MISSION 90

By Joe Westbury

N-HMB

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptists commissioned 21 home and foreign missionaries in a special dual commissioning service Dec. 30 at MISSION 90 in which leaders called for renewed dedication to world evangelization.

The Dec. 27-31 national student missions conference was only the second time the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign mission boards have jointly commissioned missionaries and the first time leaders of the Sunday School Board have participated.

At the conclusion of the three-hour service, several hundred of the more than 3,600 conference registrants responded to a call to dedicate their lives to Christ or respond to a call to missions.

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, charged the missionaries -- and the audience -- to be in the seed-sowing business for Christ.

"Is there anyone here who is not a missionary tonight? All of us, when we have named the name of Christ, have become missionaries," he said.

Lewis, himself a former church starter, urged the missionaries not only to win the unchurched to Christ but to congregationalize them as well.

"Why do we need 1,500 new churches every year? Because every time we start a church we have placed Jesus in that community," he added.

In addition to evangelizing the unchurched, Lewis stressed the need to minister to them in love and Christian compassion, "whether they live in the ghetto or in a \$500,000 house."

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, contrasted the luxury in which the former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu lived while his countrymen barely survived in squalor and poverty.

"While he and his family dined from three-page menus the people lived on starvation rations. Even their two black Labradors were given printed menus for their meals," he told the students.

Parks said the world is outraged at such hoarding of luxury when there is such need but warned that many Christians hoard God's riches and refuse to share them with a spiritually dying world.

While stressing that the call to missions is a call to sacrifice, Parks cited the need for a generation that will say, "I may die in his service, but I will not let the world die without hearing of God's love and forgiveness."

During the service students also heard testimonies from six of the 10 foreign and 11 home missionaries who were commissioned; viewed a procession of flags of the nations where Southern Baptists have missionaries and of the states of the United States. A solemn procession of black banners representing nations closed to the gospel followed. The session also included the dedication of a new "Adopt-A-Missionary Program."

The program allows campus or church student groups to "adopt" a missionary for four years by praying for and corresponding with the individual. In exchange, missionaries will agree to share prayer requests, answered prayers, and visit with the student group at least once during the commitment time.

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MISSION 90 was sponsored by the Sunday School Board's student ministry department in cooperation with the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and six SBC seminaries.

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BP photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers from Fort Worth by SSB bureau of Baptist Press.

Baptist artist
Herman Burns dies

N-SSB

Baptist Press
1/3/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Herman F. Burns, 86, the first staff artist employed at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, died Dec. 29 following a brief illness.

Burns, who retired in 1970, began work at the board in 1928 as staff artist. He later became the board's art editor, then art director and ultimately director of the first art department for any Southern Baptist agency. The department grew to a staff of 50 under Burns' direction, supplying art services for the board's hundreds of publications.

Earlier, he had been staff artist for the "Chicago Herald and Examiner" and for Nashville Capitol Engraving Company.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, he gained his professional art training at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, American Academy of Art and the Art Institute, all in Chicago, Ill.; and the Arts Students League and Grand Central School of Art, New York City.

He was a co-founder and past president of the Art Directors Club of Nashville, a member of the Art Directors Club of New York and the National Society of Art Directors.

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