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May 29, 1990

90-73

Student summer missions
canceled in Philippines

By Mary E. Speidel

N-JMB

MANILA, Philippines (BP)--Forty-one Southern Baptist college students won't go to the Philippines as summer missionaries because of recent violence and threats against American service personnel there.

Philippine Baptist leaders have recommended that Baptist Student Union summer missionaries cancel their 10-week service planned this summer, said Sam Waldron, a Southern Baptist missionary administrator in the Philippines.

The recommendation came after the May 13 shooting deaths of two U.S. Air Force enlisted men in the Philippines. The New People's Army, the armed branch of the outlawed Philippine Communist Party, claimed responsibility for the deaths. The NPA warned that killings will continue until American troops and military bases leave the country. The lease for six U.S. bases in the Philippines expires in 1991.

Although NPA threats are not directed against American civilians, the U.S. State Department has issued travel advisories for Americans in some areas where the students would have worked, Waldron said.

Thirty-nine of the 41 students, who were trained and ready to go, already have been named to new assignments in the United States, Canada, Hungary, Israel, Korea and Madagascar. Placement was arranged through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and Baptist state convention student ministry departments.

Missionaries and Philippine Baptists are disappointed about the cancellation, Waldron said. Student summer missionaries "are always like a shot in the arm to us," he said. "We'll miss them."

The students would have worked in about 50 Baptist churches on the Philippine islands of Luzon and Mindanao, Waldron said. They would have been involved in a variety of ministries including personal evangelism, youth and children's work and Bible teaching while living with Baptist families.

In the wake of the NPA threats, the 168 Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers working in the Philippines are limiting their travel, "but basically our work is uninterrupted," Waldron said.

Missionaries are feeling some tension, he said, but "we don't feel a personal threat at this time, especially as long as we're able to stay in areas where we're known and recognized. We feel our missionaries are safe."

The latest NPA threats indicate a shift in strategy for the guerrilla group, according to news reports. For the first time, any U.S. service personnel are potential targets for assassination, reports said. Until now, the NPA had said it was targeting only ranking U.S. officers, intelligence agents and counterinsurgency specialists.

Some of the state student ministry leaders working with the summer missionary program said they had expected the cancellation.

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The two Missouri students headed for the Philippines "were disappointed, but ... they appreciated the concern that the Foreign Mission Board had for their safety," said Don LaFontaine, associate in the student ministries department at the Missouri Baptist Convention.

"We've dealt every summer with the possibility that there would be cancellations somewhere," said Ircel Harrison, director of the student ministries department at the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "With the kind of world we live in, anything's a possibility."

In past years, as many as 63 Southern Baptist summer missionaries have worked simultaneously in the Philippines, officials said.

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Mary E. Speidel is a staff writer for the Foreign Mission Board. FMB staff writer Marty Croll also contributed to this story.

McBeth launches Centennial
for Sunday School Board

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
5/29/90

N-SSB

NASHVILLE (BP)--Historian Leon McBeth characterized the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as the "shaper of a denomination" during the May 25 launch of the board's centennial celebration.

"Sundayschoolandchurch" were described as "one word and one experience" for McBeth as he grew up in Cross Roads Baptist Church in Fisher County, Texas. McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, also is the author of "Celebrating Heritage and Hope," a historical account of the board's first 100 years.

"No other agency or organization has done as much, I am convinced, as the Sunday School Board in shaping Southern Baptist activities and outlook," McBeth told employees gathered for the annual Anniversary Day Celebration.

"You have helped mold what we think and how we feel," he continued. "You have shaped our worship, our convictions, even our social lives."

McBeth said Southern Baptists "are to a large degree the collective result of your ministry over the past century. You have determined what we read and what we sing. You taught us what the Bible is and what it teaches."

He said his Sunday school quarterly provided "glimpses of how to draw out from the Bible a message for today," long before he had ever heard the term Bible commentary.

In fact, McBeth said he had never been to Nashville or heard of the Sunday School Board when it was affecting him so profoundly through use of quarterlies, hymnals and training materials.

"No other Southern Baptist board or agency directly touched the rural church where I grew up," he said. "The Sunday School Board was our only direct line with the larger Southern Baptist family."

"No Southern Baptist missionary ever spoke in our church, nor did anyone from the state convention or any agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, including the Sunday School Board," he said. "But, in that one-room church, we had our quarterlies, the 'Sunday School Builder' and a Standard of Excellence banner for Sunday school."

"What the board did for me individually, it did for millions of Southern Baptists," he said. "What the board did for our rural church, it did for thousands."

"Sunday School Board quarterlies blanketed the South, taking careful pains to discover and explain what the Bible says and what it means for our daily lives," he continued.

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"Every president from J.M. Frost to Lloyd Elder has been firmly committed to the authority of the Bible, and not one of them has ever wavered about keeping the Board and all its publications true to the Bible," he added. "We often hear Southern Baptists described as a Bible-believing people. I believe that description is accurate, and as a historian I credit the Sunday School Board for helping make it so.

"The Sunday School Board shaped the educational ministry of our churches and our denomination," McBeth explained. "Independent programs were tested, honed, streamlined, restructured, and 'baptized' to sharpen the focus, develop suitable literature and train needed leadership."

He said the board took an eighteenth-century Sunday school and changed, molded and adapted it to a new shape, reinventing it for Southern Baptists. In the process, an independent parachurch appendage inherited by the board was converted into a church school for all age groups "firmly anchored to the denomination."

McBeth gave much credit to the "Broadman Hymnal" for affecting the quality of worship in churches, because it was the first standard worship guide for Southern Baptist churches. He said this was the first introduction to worship aids for many churches and it brought the element of commonality.

"I really believe this board created the great consensus among Southern Baptist in the basics such as allegiance to the Bible, commitment to evangelism and commitment to missions," McBeth said. "I respect state conventions, universities, state papers, seminaries and other agencies, but when the Sunday School Board speaks it has the ear of the denomination.

"Churches that are large and famous or remote and small, the Sunday School Board speaks to them all," he continued.

"We need to get back to those basics and build a new consensus," he said, because that consensus has been fragmented over the past few years.

"Your great challenge as you enter your second century of service is to shape a new consensus for the twenty-first century," he added. "Help us rediscover a common outlook, a cooperative spirit and a compassionate outlook upon a lost world.

"Celebrating Heritage and Hope," the historical account of the board's centennial, will be available in October 1990. McBeth spent a one-year sabbatical from his post at Southwestern Seminary to research and write the book.

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

Former Missouri presidents
cite key areas of concern

By Trennis Henderson

Baptist Press
5/29/90

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Twelve former Missouri Baptist Convention presidents have released a statement expressing concern over the future of the Cooperative Program and Southern Baptists' role in defending and preserving religious liberty.

"A Statement to Missouri Baptists by Some Who Have Served as Convention President," says the 3-page document is an effort "to alert our fellow Missouri Baptists of two issues of grave concern to us all: The Cooperative Program and religious liberty."

Describing "a threat to the Cooperative Missions Program," the statement says: "It alarms us that some people have called for cutting state conventions out of local churches' contributions through the Cooperative Program. They say state conventions are unresponsive to 'conservative concerns.' This criticism is unfair and unjustified. We think this proposal would seriously cripple, and perhaps kill, the missionary, evangelistic and educational ministries of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

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"We call on Missouri Baptists to rally to the defense of the Cooperative Missions Program that has served Missouri and Southern Baptists well since 1925. Cooperation, not factionalism, is the heritage of Missouri Baptists. We must protect that legacy."

The second section details "a threat to religious liberty." The former presidents wrote: "It alarms us that the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has recommended that the SBC reduce its support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and assign the precious principles of religious liberty and separation of church and state to an SBC agency that has little, if any, experience in these areas.

"For over half a century, Southern Baptists have been working jointly with other Baptists in defense of religious liberty and church-state separation. This arrangement has worked well. We ask: Why change now? There's an adage which we think fits the current situation: If it's not broke, don't fix it."

The statement emphasizes that "Missouri Baptists, in particular, know that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has stood with us in protecting First Amendment values. Like Missouri Baptists, it has opposed government's interference with churches' business, government's sponsorship and promotion of religious exercises in public schools, government's use of its taxing power to aid education in church schools, and government's entering into an ongoing, entangling relationship with churches."

Noting that "in recent years the Missouri Baptist Convention has affirmed its support of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs," the statement recounted details of resolutions affirming the BJCPA adopted each of the past four years by MBC messengers.

"Last year our state convention specifically expressed disappointment with the SBC Executive Committee's proposal to give 'the assignment in religious liberty matters' to the SBC Christian Life Commission," the statement recalled. "It saddens us that the SBC Executive Committee, to whom our state convention president and executive director sent our 1989 resolution, has been so unresponsive to the expressed sentiments of Missouri Baptists.

"It furthers saddens us that the SBC Executive Committee has ignored five votes in six years in the Southern Baptist Convention in defeating efforts to starve the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by reducing or ending funding through the Cooperative Program.

"The protection of the principle of religious liberty and church-state separation is too important to be entrusted to an SBC agency of unproven ability. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has proven its commitment and ability for several decades. It deserves our continued support."

The statement's concluding paragraph declares, "We bring our concerns to your attention, Missouri Baptists, for we think that the situation is urgent. You know of us or of our work among you. We would not take this extraordinary means of addressing you as we have if we did not think that these times call for Missouri Baptists to defend their birthrights related to the Cooperative Program and religious liberty."

Former MBC presidents who signed the statement include Willard Bright, T.T. Crabtree, Homer E. DeLozier, G. Nelson Duke, Thomas S. Field, John Gilbert, John E. Hughes, Charles Hufft, Jim E. Jeffries, Wallace E. Jones, Milton Morales and Hugh Wamble.

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Support for Honeycutt
floods Southern Seminary

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
5/29/90

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Trivia question: Which takes longer for Roy L. Honeycutt to read -- "War and Peace" or a recent week's mail?

The answer may be a toss-up.

During the week of May 21-25, the president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary received more than 2,000 letters and postcards from Southern Baptists in 23 states and several foreign nations. Volunteers who helped Honeycutt open the mail found only one letter that was not clearly supportive.

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Letters of support poured into the Louisville, Ky., seminary camp following news reports of questions about Honeycutt's belief in the Bible raised by a first-year seminary trustee. In a 16-page document, 25-year-old pastor Jerry Johnson of Aurora, Colo., charged Honeycutt and several other faculty members with "doctrinal infidelity." Following criticism of excerpts from Honeycutt's writing in several Old Testament commentaries, Johnson wrote, "One would have to be as blind as a mole not to see that Dr. Honeycutt just does not believe the Bible."

The document, circulated to seminary trustees just before their annual meeting in late April, also was published in the Southern Baptist Advocate, an independent newspaper.

Since then, Honeycutt has responded in writing and in alumni gatherings in four states. In statements reaffirming his commitment to the authority of Scripture, the 63-year-old Old Testament scholar has charged Johnson with precipitating "an unprecedented crisis" at Southern Seminary.

Johnson's accusations, said Honeycutt, "strike at the very heart of my own ministry and at the foundation of the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest seminary. Like a rainstorm that becomes a ravaging hurricane, these charges threaten to gather enough destructive power to inflict irreparable damage upon the seminary and upon individuals and their families."

While seeking to address the charges, Honeycutt said he has been "deeply moved" by the outpouring of support for him and the faculty. Reading the letters of prayer support, he said, has "been one of the most meaningful and encouraging experiences of my 44 years of ministry."

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Photo available upon request from Southern Seminary communications office

Ashcraft retires;
successor search under way

Baptist Press
5/29/90

RICHMOND, Va., (BP)--Morris Ashcraft, who for the past year has been acting president of the Southern Baptist Alliance-sponsored Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., retired from the post May 15.

Seminary Chairperson Mary M. Strauss announced an eight-person search committee charged with finding a permanent chief academic officer for the new school.

Named to the search panel were Stan Hastey, executive director, Southern Baptist Alliance, Washington; Alan Neely, Princeton, N.J.; Anne Thomas Neil, an educator and past Alliance president, Wake Forest, N.C.; Ross S. Shearer, a retired U.S. government employee, Arlington, Va.; Strauss, of Hagerstown, Md.; John B. Trotti, librarian, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, Richmond; Lynda Weaver-Williams, an educator and minister, Glen Allen, Va.; and Elmer S. West Jr., a former pastor, missionary and denominational employee, Richmond.

Strauss announced a June 15 deadline for applications and nominations for the post, adding she has set the committee's initial meeting for June 18 in Richmond. An announcement of the vacancy has been placed in The Christian Century, SBC Today and several Baptist state newspaper.

The announcement specifies the committee's choice will be a Baptist who holds an earned doctorate in a recognized theological discipline and is a committed churchperson desiring to work in an ecumenical and interracial consortium of theological institutions.

The seminary is designed as a fourth partner institution in the Richmond Theological Center, which presently consists of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, Presbyterian School of Christian Education, and the School of Theology, Virginia Union University.

The new school's statement of purpose includes a pledge "to seek and maintain balance in gender and race" in the employment of faculty and staff.

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In a letter advising Strauss and other members of the school's board of trustees of his retirement, Ashcraft cited family and health reasons. "My wife and I have concluded ... that we are not able to make the necessary move to Richmond for me to be able to continue in this role," he said.

Ashcraft, 67, noting that May 15, the effective date for his retirement, also marked the first anniversary of his service in the post of acting president, added, "We have confirmed during this year that we do not have the necessary resources, health and energy for this effort at this stage in our lives."

The former dean of the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., expressed optimism that the new seminary will open in the fall of 1991, as announced by trustees earlier this year.

Ashcraft also emphasized his decision was to retire, not resign, noting both he and trustees "knew at this time last year when you asked me to serve in this capacity that it would be temporary, perhaps only a year."

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Canadian Seminary President Clint
Ashley learning to live by faith

By Chip Alford

N-JMS

Baptist Press
5/29/90

COCHRANE, Alberta (BP)--When Canadian Southern Baptists started searching for a president at their new seminary four years ago, Clint Ashley was praying, too.

"I was excited about the work that was going on in Canada, but my first prayer was 'God, please don't bring them in my direction.' I didn't want to have to wrestle with that decision," said Ashley, who was pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Pullman, Wash., at the time. "I was honored that they would even consider me, but I was in a pastorate that I loved, and we were very happy."

Canadian leaders, though, were convinced they had found their president and Ashley soon realized the move was part of God's plan for his life. Apprehension melted into excitement as he anticipated the task.

But during family medical tests included in the immigration process, Ashley's wife, Andrea, learned she had lung cancer. Doctors predicted she would die within a year.

"I was devastated, and I couldn't think of going to Canada without my wife," Ashley remembered. "But our Canadian friends were so encouraging and supportive."

Ashley went ahead with his new duties, commuting between Canada and Washington, where his wife was receiving treatment. Although the time was difficult, the Ashleys soon received a special blessing.

"Through an immense amount of prayer God healed" her, said Ashley, who now has his family with him in Cochrane, Alberta. He will complete his fourth year as president of Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary this September.

This June, Ashley's faith and ministry are being honored by his alma mater, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees.

Although Canadian immigration authorities have denied the Ashleys permanent residency status three times because of Mrs. Ashley's previous health problems, the family remains committed to their work in Canada. "The government will review our status next year," Ashley said. "What we have learned to do is relax and live by faith."

Ashley's initial responsibilities were overseeing the construction of two buildings on the 149-acre campus, selecting and hiring faculty and staff and working with trustees to develop a curriculum. With the third year of classes already in session, five full-time faculty members and three adjunct professors provide instruction for 80 students.

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"A small school is like a small church, so I do a little bit of everything," said Ashley, who teaches three courses and handles much of the school's public relations and fund-raising activities in addition to his duties as chief administrator.

The seminary's primary goal, Ashley said, is to train an increasing number of students to serve in Canada's pastorless churches.

"We have a little more than 100 Southern Baptist churches in Canada right now, and at any given time 15 to 17 are without a pastor," he explained. "Training students to go to these churches and start new ones is critical."

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Ashley spent most of his childhood years in Temple, Texas. He accepted Christ at First Baptist Church there as a 10-year old. During his early teenage years he moved to Dallas and became active in the youth group at Park Cities Baptist Church. During a trip to Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center he experienced a call to the ministry.

To prepare himself he earned a bachelor's degree in Christian religion from Baylor University in 1961 and his two degrees from Southwestern.

"Southwestern gives a man the tools and resources necessary to prepare him for whatever kind of ministry God has called him to do," said Ashley. "The seminary also helped me to realize that biblical and theological studies are dynamic."

After earning his degree from Southwestern, Ashley served two years as pastor of Lakeland Hills Baptist Church in Dallas. He also was a part-time chaplain with the U.S. Army Reserve, a position he kept while working on his doctorate.

He and his wife spent six years as missionaries to Brazil. He was a field missionary for one year before accepting teaching assignments at Brazilian Baptist seminaries in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

In 1978 Ashley returned to the United States to become pastor of Emmanuel Church in Pullman.

"That turned out to be probably the eight finest years of my life," he said. "Our church grew in a surprising and dramatic way, not just numerically."

Emmanuel grew from a congregation of 80 to more than 300 and built a new 30,000-square-foot building under his leadership. During his eight-year tenure in Pullman, Ashley was active in civic and community affairs and also was president of the Northwest Baptist Convention from 1984 to 1986.

Ashley is a former member of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees and the Southern Baptist Convention Canada Study Committee. He is currently writing 16 lessons for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship training department on biblical teachings about man and the will of God.

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Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary

Students plan rally
at New Orleans SBC

N-20
Baptist Press
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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Heads of three Southern Baptist missions organizations will join Southern Baptist Convention presidential candidate Daniel Vestal as speakers at an outdoor rally in New Orleans June 11 on the eve of the SBC's annual meeting.

Sons and Daughters of the Southern Baptist Convention, an organization of students from the six SBC seminaries and more than a dozen Baptist colleges, is sponsoring the "homecoming rally." The focus will be on "our Southern Baptist heritage and future," said national coordinator David Burroughs, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

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Burroughs and Sons and Daughters had invited five SBC leaders to speak briefly on the theme. Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis, Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks, Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, and Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, accepted invitations. Burroughs said SBC President Jerry Vines and presidential candidate Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, declined invitations to speak because of schedule conflicts.

The rally will begin at 9:30 p.m. Monday, June 11, at Dunkan Plaza across from City Hall on Perdido Street, two blocks from the Louisiana Superdome, site of the June 12-14 SBC annual meeting.

Sons and Daughters was begun earlier this year to "call for an end to denominational strife and for freedom to minister unhindered, as called by God, in order to fulfill the stated purpose" of the SBC. The organization's primary effort has been enlisting students to focus on daily intercessory prayer for SBC leaders.

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Student exchanges
possible for Mongolia

Baptist Press
5/29/90

J-JMB

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (BP)--Mongolian educators have expressed interest in student exchanges between Southern Baptist colleges and universities and the Mongolian State University.

The exchange possibility was discussed during a recent meeting in Ulan Bator, Mongolia's capital, by Mongolian university officials and Jack Shelby of Cooperatives Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

"This was the very first thing the people at the university mentioned," Shelby said. "They're hungry for this kind of exchange. That's where I look for our next big thrust to develop if we can find Baptist schools interested in providing scholarships, and I believe we can."

Cooperative Services International has sponsored several teams of Southern Baptist teachers who have taught English in Mongolia, trained Mongolians in English teaching and worked with the government to design English instruction for primary and secondary schools. The government is promoting English education in a drive to expand economic ties with Western nations.

Mongolia, a once-isolated nation of 2.5 million people wedged between the Soviet Union and China, has joined the ranks of communist states opening up to the West. Street demonstrations for democracy were going on daily while Shelby was there, he said.

"The atmosphere now is much more open, much freer and much more progressive than it was three years ago," he observed. "It's almost like being in a different country."

One high government education official told Shelby: "We must move ahead with the opening to the West. The policy of our government is to improve relations with non-socialist countries, and I'm committed to carrying it out."

Shelby had been discouraged from requesting student exchanges during earlier visits. This time, however, officials voiced the need for exchanges on the undergraduate, graduate and scholar levels.

CSI plans to send at least two teachers to Mongolia in July for a one-month English seminar with 10 Mongolian high school teachers. Mongolian officials asked Shelby to send another teaching team in September for an additional seminar at the Foreign Language Institute in Ulan Bator.

Once a Buddhist nation, Mongolia has been a staunch Soviet ally for decades and is officially atheistic. Less than a dozen Christians are known to live in the nation.

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Coalition asks ~~e~~ to beer
sponsorship of motor sports

By Bill Clough

f BPC

WASHINGTON (BP)--Race cars have become like beer cans hurtling at 200 miles per hour around a race track, said spokespersons for The National Coalition to Prevent Impaired Driving.

At a news conference May 21 in Washington, the coalition announced it has launched its summer safe-driving campaign by calling for an end to beer sponsorship of motor sports.

The organization said it is offering "symbolic sponsorship" to two professional motor sports drivers who have refused to accept promotional funding from alcoholic beverage companies.

"We believe that a broad policy agenda -- one that looks at the drinking environment as well as law enforcement -- is necessary to combat the staggering human and economic toll of drunken and drugged driving in this country," said Alexander Wageneer, chairperson of the coalition.

About 24,000 persons lost their lives in alcohol-related crashes last year -- an average of one every 22 minutes. More than 500,000 suffer injuries from alcohol-related crashes -- an average of one every minute.

"The coalition is proud to sponsor professional drivers who refuse to promote the association of beer and fast cars," Wageneer said as he introduced "monster truck" competitor Randi Lynn Hubbard and professional race car driver Michael Schriefer.

"I try to provide a role model for kids," said Hubbard, one of two female drivers of monster trucks in the country. "If I can get across to the kids that drinking and driving is not safe, then that's what I want to do."

She has paid a price for her dedication. "Before I chose not to endorse an alcohol beverage company, I had 12 professional shows that would pay me a great deal of money," she said. "Subsequently, I've been told that those shows aren't going to be there for me."

Schriefer's reasons for speaking out against drinking and driving are personal. "A few years ago a very close friend of mine was killed from impaired driving, so from here on out, I'm dedicating my professional efforts to promoting anti-drunk driving," he said.

Edward T. Popper, a professor of marketing at Bryant College in Smithfield, R.I., told reporters, "Through the sponsorship of motor sports events, drivers and teams, the beer companies create an indelible image -- that beer and high-speed, aggressive driving go together." He said that when these combine off the track, the result is thousands of needless deaths and injuries.

At the news conference, a new report entitled "Beer and Fast Cars: How Brewers Target Blue-collar Youth through Motor Sport Sponsorships" was released by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety in Washington.

The report said, "Young males from blue-collar backgrounds are particularly likely to die in alcohol-related crashes. They tend to drink beer and drink to the point of intoxication more often than peers in other demographic groups."

The coalition has sent letters to Anheuser-Busch, Miller, Coors and Stroh, asking them to terminate their sponsorships, appealing to the brewers' sense of citizenship, community values and concern for public health and safety.

The coalition hopes its summer campaign will encourage other professional drivers to shun alcohol industry sponsorships. It also plans to attract alternative promoters for drivers who do.

Robert Parham, an associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and a member of the board of directors of NCPID, said, "Southern Baptists will be surprised when they start to notice how many race cars are covered with beer symbols.

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"The beer industry is using one of the most powerful symbols in American life, the fast car, to prey on young blue-collar men. "It's a profound example of the predatory nature of the booze merchants."

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Clough is a freelance journalist from Washington.

West Texas Baptist church gives
widow's mite to disaster relief

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
5/29/90

PLAINVIEW, Texas (BP)--When Date Street Baptist Church of Plainview, Texas, voted to give \$1,000 to aid flood victims, it was reminiscent of Jesus' reference to the widow's mite.

The church, which averages about 20 in Sunday school, is located in an economically disadvantaged area and made up largely of retirees.

"A lot of our people are just barely scraping by, widow ladies and all," said a deacon, Joe Culpepper, who joined in 1955.

"But there's a tradition of missions support," Culpepper added. "I'm always amazed at how our people respond to missions needs."

The church decided to give \$1,000 for disaster relief after their new bi-vocational pastor, Claude W. Porter, shared an appeal by Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Chairman James Semple, for funding, volunteers and prayer.

"The members have a long-standing background of supporting missions and benevolent causes," said Porter. "They will give sacrificially for missions needs, even in an economically depressed situation."

Date Street Baptist Church gives 10 percent of its undesignated offerings for missions through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan. Also, it helps support work of the Staked Plains Baptist Association, Plains Baptist Assembly and Wayland Baptist University.

In 1989, the church nearly doubled its \$500 goal for the Lottie Moon Offering for foreign missions. This year, it has exceeded its goal for the Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions.

Date Street shares its buildings with its child, the Date Street Hispanic Mission, which it started about four years ago. The mission averages about 25 in Sunday school.

Date Street members are reluctant to treat their missions commitment as anything extraordinary.

"I think if a church is not mission minded, it's not what it ought to be," said former WMU President Thelma Jarrett, 86, who has 55 years of perfect attendance in Sunday school.

"I had a heart attack last September," said Mrs. Jarrett, "but folks came to the hospital and had Sunday school with me."

Church Treasurer Gladys Simoneau explains, "They're all caring people. If someone's in need, everybody is right there behind it."

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President Emeritus Berquist
dies after long illness

N-(10)
(M10-)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Mallard J. Berquist, president emeritus of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died May 22 at the Delmar Gardens Nursing Home in Overland Park, Kan., after a five-month illness with cancer. He was 88.

Berquist was the first president of Midwestern Seminary, accepting the position in October 1957 -- before seminary facilities even existed.

He returned to his birthplace in Kansas City, Kan., to oversee the opening of Southern Baptists' youngest seminary. During the previous 15 years, he had been pastor of two Florida Baptist congregations: Riverside Baptist Church in Jacksonville and First Baptist Church in Tampa.

When he became president, the site where the seminary now stands was open pastureland. Under his leadership, the campus was developed to include academic and administrative buildings, as well as student residence facilities.

Berquist officially retired from the presidency in July 1972, but continued administrative duties until his successor, Milton Ferguson, assumed office in February 1973.

During Berquist's 15-year history with the seminary, about 1,00 students from 40 states and 16 foreign countries studied at Midwestern.

During their April 1972 annual board meeting, seminary trustees elected Berquist president emeritus of Midwestern. In June 1972, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee honored him with a Distinguished Service Award.

In retirement, Berquist served interim pastorates in Missouri and Florida. He also occupied the chair of Southern Baptist studies at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., for a time.

He was a graduate of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and John B. Stetson University, DeLand, Fla.

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Small town mission seeks to
'soften the blows' on poor

By Ken Camp

(10)
N-2000

Baptist Press
5/29/90

DALLAS (BP)--An inner-city-style mission offering Christian social ministry to the poor might seem out of place in a north Texas town of 6,000 people. But according to Pastor Earl Mason, Bowie Baptist Mission meets urgent physical and spiritual needs throughout Montague County.

Bowie Baptist Mission was begun about 18 months ago under the primary sponsorship of Carter Lake Baptist Church in Bowie, Texas, with additional support from First Baptist Church of Bowie. After meeting for about five months in the North Central Texas Baptist Area mobile chapel, the mission was moved to a storefront location in downtown Bowie.

Mason, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Wisconsin who had taken medical retirement following a massive heart attack and by-pass surgery, was called to help start the low-income mission.

"I had worked in the same type of ministry up in Wisconsin, helping street people, the homeless and low-income workers," Mason said.

Each month, Bowie Mission distributes 1,700 to 2,000 pounds of food to needy families and individuals. The mission also maintains a "Samaritan Fund" to help pay utility bills, medical expenses and emergency housing costs for the poor.

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Recently, the Baptist General Convention of Texas provided money to renovate the second story of Bowie Mission's building. When remodeling is completed, the mission will be able to offer an on-site, upstairs apartment as short-term, emergency housing for the homeless.

Funds were made available through Texas Baptist gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions and churches' ongoing missions support through the Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget.

In addition to the Christian social ministries it provides, Bowie Mission also offers worship services, Bible studies and discipleship training classes in a modest chapel adjacent to the mission office. In the past year, the mission has baptized eight people, and the congregation currently has 21 members.

The one-time office building was converted into a chapel with volunteer labor. One laborer who helped with the project made a profession of faith in Christ.

"He takes up the offering at the mission each week now and drives a van for us. He and his wife are both faithful members of the mission," Mason said.

Although nobody with an urgent need is turned away, Bowie Mission requires people receiving help on a continuing basis to attend church services somewhere.

"They don't have to come to our mission. Some of them are Church of Christ or Methodist or have some other religious affiliation. But we expect them to be regular in attendance at the church of their choice. We want them to be getting spiritual food as well as physical food," Mason said.

The sponsoring congregation of Bowie Mission, Carter Lake Church, averages about 50 in Sunday school attendance, many of whom are retirees on fixed incomes.

"We're a living example that size does not determine a congregation's ability to sponsor new work," said Sam Underwood, pastor of Carter Lake Church.

Underwood, who noted that Carter Lake gives 16 percent of its undesignated offerings to missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, emphasized that Bowie Mission is a cooperative effort involving his congregation, First Baptist Church of Bowie, Montague Baptist Association and the Texas convention.

Although some of the people who visit the mission are transients with neither a job nor a desire to work, Mason said most are "working poor" families, struggling to survive on minimum- -- or sometimes sub-minimum- -- wage jobs.

Some are construction workers or farm laborers whose jobs are dependent on fair weather, which has been in short supply in recent months.

Others are individuals stuck in low-income jobs because they lack education. To help combat that problem, Bowie Mission is offering literacy training.

"Our main goal is to lead the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ," Mason said. "Beyond that, we want to help people do the best they can with what they have to work with.

"We can't solve all the problems of the needy, but maybe we can soften the blows a little."

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Professor communicates
with 'signs from above'

By Pam Alewine

Baptist Press
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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)-- Rick Yount can't make the deaf hear. But when he talks, they understand.

And while most of Yount's students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, hear what the associate professor in foundations of education has to say, he believes the approaches aren't that different.

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... "It's concepts we have to get across, not mere words," Yount said. "I want my students to do more than memorize words."

From nine years on Southwestern's faculty and earlier teaching experiences, Yount knows when those concepts have been learned.

His signal, he said, is when "the light comes on" in students' faces. It's a look he first saw while teaching in sign language.

"I live for the light to come on," Yount said. "That's the reward of teaching."

When he sees those expressions of understanding, Yount knows learning is in process, and that's what seminary is all about, he said.

"I'd love for all my students to love me, but I'd rather them learn something about educational psychology," he said.

And what the professor teaches about learning, he practices for himself. "I'm a learner," Yount said. "My students teach me things every semester. We put the jigsaw puzzle together, and that's fun."

Yount started putting the pieces of the puzzle together when his mother began praying for him years ago. Yount said she prayed "the prayer of Hannah," offering her young son to God.

And although Yount's father was not a Christian, his mother saw to it her son was in church regularly.

At the age of 6, living in Rockville, Ind., he made a profession of faith in Christ. "It was very real. I gave everything I knew of myself to everything I knew of the Lord," he said.

His favorite memory as a child was seeing his father led to Christ by men who visited the Yount home from a local church.

After his father became a Christian, the family became "churchaholics," Yount said. During his adolescent years, Yount attended Royal Ambassador missions camp. At a worship service one year at camp, his mother's prayer was answered when Yount felt God's leadership into ministry.

"My heart was just squeezed. I knew I had to surrender it all, but I didn't know to what at the time," he said.

He later enrolled at the University of Maryland where he received a degree in electrical engineering.

After finishing at Maryland, Yount and his wife, Barbara, felt like they were "up against a black wall." But, he said, God began to work things out and led the couple to fulfill their call.

Not long after that a man from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board spoke at the Younts' church and demonstrated sign language. The Younts were in awe of the new language and its possibilities in ministry.

"We became consumed with learning sign language and ministering to deaf people," Yount said.

That led to teaching positions at Gauladette University in Washington, D.C., a school for the deaf.

Other open doors of ministry soon followed. In their first year at Gauladette, they started a deaf ministry at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va. In the first year of ministry, 35 of the 37 students in their deaf Sunday school class became Christians.

Under the influence of their pastor, Neil Jones, Yount was encouraged to consider seminary.

When he finished his seminary education at Southwestern, Yount was asked back to Columbia Church as minister of education.

Yount's time at Columbia and his involvement in deaf ministry, combined with his wife's sensitivity for people, helped shape his view of ministry, he said.

And of his current job, he said: "I love being a seminary professor. "I wouldn't do anything else."

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BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary.