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July 6, 1990

90-88

Baptist volunteers in Kenya  
harassed in preaching campaign By Donald D. Martin

*N-DMB*

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP)--A witnessing team of Southern Baptist volunteers was harassed while preaching to a large crowd on the outskirts of Mombasa.

The volunteer team, led by Joe Brown, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., is part of a four-week evangelistic crusade in Kenya. The campaign will link about 620 volunteers from the United States with more than 100 Kenya Baptist pastors and 30 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in small evangelism teams that will witness, preach and show evangelical films.

Brown's team included eight other church members from Hickory Grove Baptist Church and a Kenya interpreter. They had drawn a crowd of about 1,500 people in Mombasa's Likoni district. The team planned to speak for about an hour and then show a film about the life of Jesus.

However, the truck carrying outdoor projection equipment and the film was delayed. The team remained, preaching a second message. Toward the end of Brown's second message people in the crowd began throwing gravel and rocks.

Brown said in an interview with The Charlotte Observer that they were forced to seek the shelter of their van and leave the area.

No one was seriously injured in the June 29 incident. The Kenya interpreter was hit in the shoulder by a rock and a volunteer was kicked in the leg, according to the news report.

Tom Jones, administrator of the Kenya Baptist Mission, said the delayed truck eventually arrived and then the film was shown. Volunteers showing the film said the crowd did not seem violent, although there were some hecklers. Jones said that is not uncommon in the Likoni district because of a high concentration of Muslims living in the area.

"This sort of thing has been going on for 20 or 30 years here in Kenya," Jones said. "If you promise to show a movie and for some reason you aren't able to then the crowd becomes impatient, a little unruly and stone throwing can be a part of it. I've experienced the same thing myself several years ago. So this was not an unusual occurrence."

Jones said the overall response to the gospel has been excellent.

"It's been wide open. The people have been very gracious and receptive. In Mombasa alone we have recorded approximately 8,000 professions of faith," he said. Total professions of faith for the whole crusade are estimated to be between 12,000 and 14,000 in the first 11 days.

Dilday issues statement  
clarifying SBC comments

By Scott Collins

N-CC  
SUBSTS

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--A statement of clarification about comments made during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans has been issued by Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dilday said the statement is intended as a response to "persons who misinterpreted my intention in the comments I made in answer to a question during the Wednesday morning session (June 13) of the convention."

The seminary president said he has received "a strong response of encouragement from across the convention." However, "there have also been numerous letters and calls" from Southern Baptists who have asked for a clarification.

Dilday's original comments came during a question from messenger Michael Haley of Lakeland, Fla., who said he overheard a press interview in which Dilday referred to actions in the SBC as "satanic and evil."

In his clarification, Dilday said the comment -- "that crass, secular political methodology used in the takeover of the convention these past 12 years has satanic and evil qualities to which I am desperately opposed" -- was "only one response I gave to many questions from reporters in a hallway interview."

The statement of clarification continues, "For 12 years I have publicly denounced political activity on both sides in the convention as contrary to our biblical mandate. My statement to reporters in New Orleans was an attempt to say again that political activity in the Lord's work is wrong. It has engendered a decade of hostility which in turn threatens Bold Mission Thrust, damages missions and evangelism, weakens our testimony to the lost world, and divides not only the SBC, but state conventions, associations, churches, friends and even families."

Dilday said his statement in New Orleans "was an attempt to express the same concern the Peace Committee raised when it said, 'The extent of political activity in the convention at the present time creates distrust, diminishes our ability to do missions and evangelism, is detrimental to our influence and impedes our ability to serve our Lord.'"

Dilday referred to Matthew 16:23, explaining, "when we use the ways of the world and not the ways of God, we become satanic; we become stumbling blocks to his work. The Bible says God's people should renounce 'disgraceful, underhanded ways, and refuse to practice cunning (2 Corinthians 4:2),' " Dilday wrote.

"It is my belief that no matter how noble a cause may be, we must not use unrighteous methods to accomplish that cause. The end never justifies the means," Dilday said in the clarification. "Therefore, political methodology on any side is wrong."

In the section of the statement titled "apology," Dilday said "it is obvious to me now that 'satanic and evil' have different connotations to different hearers, and that my choice of words blurred the intent of my statement, leading some to assume I had labeled fellow believers as satanic. That was not my intention, and if my statement was so perceived, I am truly sorry."

Dilday said he wanted Southern Baptists to understand that "I did not call the conservative movement in the convention satanic. I am a theological conservative and I am as determined as anyone to preserve our denomination's longstanding commitment to the Bible as God's perfect word. I did not speak in judgment of persons or motives -- only methodologies and strategies that have been used by both contending groups."

The statement further states, "I certainly did not want to contribute to further erosion of our effectiveness in missions and evangelism, which is the very danger I have spoken against these past 12 years."

Clapp resigns  
seminary post

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Donald B. Clapp, executive vice president at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1987, announced his resignation effective July 31.

"I have done most of the things I planned to do when I came here three years ago," said Clapp, a Baptist layman and former administrator at the University of Kentucky. He said the seminary's budgetary challenges also played a role in his decision, adding that financial resources devoted to his position could best be used in other areas.

Clapp, 53, emphasized he had reflected on the decision some time prior to the announcement. He said he is "still in the process" of making a decision concerning future career plans.

The Southern Baptist Convention controversy, he said, had nothing to do with his resignation. He said he has enjoyed positive relationships with seminary trustees and other denominational leaders. He also expressed confidence in seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt and his efforts to "reach out to everyone in the denomination." He said he was "deeply appreciative of having had the opportunity to work with President Honeycutt and to be a part of this institution under his leadership."

"I have been and continue to be the most optimistic person in the institution as to how Southern Seminary will come through the controversy," he said. He added, however, that he regretted the controversy's "impact on the institution and on people in the institution." Prior to joining Southern Seminary's administration, Clapp, a licensed attorney, was executive vice chancellor for the University of Kentucky Medical Center. His other positions at UK included vice president for administration, executive assistant to the president and budget director.

He holds the B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Kentucky.

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Court hands down opinions  
in child witness disputes

Baptist Press  
7/6/90

WASHINGTON (BP)--States may use special procedures to protect child abuse victims who are testifying against their alleged abusers, the Supreme Court has ruled.

The court, in a 5-4 decision, held such procedures may be used only when there is a specific finding they are needing to protect the child's welfare.

The decision came in a case involving Sandra A. Craig, a Maryland day-care center operator who was convicted of sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl.

The Maryland Court of Appeals overturned the conviction on the ground that Craig's 6th Amendment right to confront her accusers was violated by the use of a one-way, closed-circuit television.

Writing for the high court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the Constitution does not guarantee criminal defendants an "absolute right to a face-to-face meeting with witnesses against them at trial." In certain narrow circumstances, she wrote, "competing interests, if closely examined, may warrant dispensing with confrontation at trial."

Maryland's interest in protecting child witnesses from the trauma of testifying in a child abuse case is sufficiently important to justify a special state statutory procedure, O'Connor said.

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Maryland's procedure permits a judge to receive the testimony of an alleged child abuse victim by one-way, closed-circuit television provided the state adequately shows it necessary in the specific case. If the procedure is invoked, the child, prosecutor and defense counsel move to another room, where the child is examined and cross-examined; the judge, jury and defendant remain in the courtroom, where the testimony is displayed. Although the child cannot see the defendant, the defendant remains in electronic communication with counsel; objections may be made and ruled on as if the witness were in the courtroom.

In a related case, the Supreme Court held a 2 1/2-year-old girl's statement to her doctor that her mother abused her could not be used at trial.

In a 5-4 decision, the court held admission of the child's hearsay statements violated the mother's 6th Amendment confrontation clause rights.

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Brunson named MSC  
volunteer of the year

N- NMB

Baptist Press  
7/6/90

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Vicky Brunson was honored as the Missions Service Corps volunteer of the year during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

The South Carolina native is assistant director for ethnic ministries for Greater Boston Baptist Association.

"I had to read the letter from her supervisor recommending her for this honor two or three times because I couldn't believe one person could do all this," said Bob Mills, director of Mission Service Corps for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Mission Service Corps volunteers are assigned for one to two years in response to requests from home missionaries. They receive no salary from the Home Mission Board.

Brunson, 32, has been instrumental in Laser Thrust surveys which discovered 11 possible new work ministries for the association. She has also coordinated day camps for Asian children in the Boston area. Last year, 40 Cambodian children accepted Jesus Christ as savior during day camps, resulting in a Cambodian mission for the children and their parents.

Among other obligations, Brunson teaches English to Vietnamese refugees and is part-time youth minister at a local church.

Brunson is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. Her father, Lloyd Brunson, is pastor of First Damascus Baptist Church in Greenwood, S.C.

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Southern Baptists send \$50,000  
to Iran for hunger relief

7-9MB

Baptist Press  
7/6/90

TEHRAN, Iran (BP)--Southern Baptists have sent \$50,000 in hunger relief funds for Iranian Christians to use in feeding some of the 500,000 people left without homes after an earthquake June 21.

That money, and an additional \$10,000 received by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board from the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), will be forwarded to a council of Christian churches inside Iran through Elam Ministries in London, England.

The Southern Baptist money will buy food inside Iran to be distributed by the Christian council. The BWA money will buy supplies such as blankets, building materials and other items not directly related to hunger.

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"We understand it's relatively easy to buy food common to Iran inside the country," said John Cheyne, who directs human needs strategy for the Foreign Mission Board. "We would like to do a good bit more, but we have to take this direction because of restrictions by the (Iranian) government. We have not been able to get in any kind of Western personnel."

Southern Baptists who want to help can send donations to the board to help underwrite the \$50,000 it has appropriated. It would be impractical for them to send commodities into Iran, said Cheyne, who has received numerous calls from people asking what they can do.

The quake measured 7.3 on the Richter scale and was centered on the southwestern corner of the Caspian Sea about 10 to 15 miles from the cities of Banda Anzali and Rasht. Rasht is the center of the Gilan province, the most fertile region in northern Iran.

The government has declared the cities of Rudbar and Abhar 100 percent devastated, and the cities of Manjil and Loshan 90 percent devastated. Rasht is 50 percent in ruins, the government has declared.

The unofficial death toll stands at more than 70,000. Wounded number more than 200,000. It has been reported that the situation is so heartbreaking that war-hardened soldiers have been crying bitterly while searching through the ruins for bodies.

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Missionaries in Philippines  
not 'alarmed' about safety

Baptist Press  
7/6/90

N - JMB

MANILA, Philippines (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines have made no formal plans to change their activities following the apparent abduction of a Peace Corps volunteer by communist guerrillas.

The missionaries say they have no reason to become alarmed, since attacks are not aimed at them. None of the 170 Southern Baptist workers assigned to the Philippines has received threats or knows of missionaries from other organizations who have.

"Right now it's business as usual," said missionary David Cartwright, chairman of the Luzon station of the Philippine Baptist Mission and a church planter on Luzon, the northernmost of the two largest islands in the Philippines.

The Peace Corps said June 27 it was removing its 261 volunteers from the Philippines to protect them from being killed or abducted by communist rebels. Intelligence reports revealed that the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Philippines' Communist Party, had directed its guerrillas to regard the volunteers as "open subjects of direct assault," according to news stories.

It is unclear just how long United States officials have known about the June 13 abduction of Timothy Swanson, 26, from his home in the village of Patag. Swanson reportedly communicated with his wife that his plight might be improved if she told no one of his kidnapping.

On a case-by-case basis, some Southern Baptist missionaries are becoming increasingly cautious and more selective about where they go, especially in areas where the NPA activity is strongest. As one missionary put it, "We need your prayers. We appreciate the concern of our families and friends back home, and we ask your prayers that we may take advantage of the evangelistic doors God opens during times of tension and uncertainty."

The NPA has been fighting for 21 years to establish a Marxist government in the Philippines. The Philippine military said in late June that rebels in Manila plan to target Americans and other foreigners for assassination and kidnapping during the next six months.

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Since May Americans have been cautioned by the U.S. State Department to be careful traveling in the Philippines, but they have not been told to stay away or to leave. "We have advised Americans that a threat exists against U.S. government personnel and facilities," said Philip Covington, a State Department spokesman quoted by an international news service.

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Ethics taking back seat  
to immorality in America

By Terri Lackey

Baptist Press  
7/6/90

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Immoral behavior in America has become the rule rather than the exception, and the result has forced Christian ethics to take a seat behind moral confusion, a discipleship training conference leader said.

"America is in a state of moral confusion. The people of America, the home of the free and the brave, say, 'If it feels good, do it; if it's okay with you, it's okay with me,'" Anna Marie Edgemon of Nashville told participants in a session on ethical issues during the discipleship training leadership conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Edgemon, a former missionary to China and wife of Roy Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship training department, led the conference based on content of a new Equipping Center module, "The Bible Speaks to Today's Ethical Issues."

The discipleship training resource addresses the issues of abortion, abuse, addiction, personal economics, world economics, homosexuality and pornography.

Edgemon cited statistics from the module pointing out that the extent of moral confusion include:

- Forty abortions are performed for every 100 live births in the United States today.
- Teen-age pregnancy and abortion rates are about twice those of other industrialized nations such as Britain, Canada, France and Sweden.
- One girl in four and one boy in seven are sexually abused. The number of substantiated sexual abuse cases rose from about 6,000 in 1976 to about 113,000 in 1985.
- As many as 45 percent of women have been subjected to rape or attempted rape.
- Twenty-five thousand highway deaths are caused each year by drunken drivers.
- Pornography is an \$8 billion-per-year business.

Edgemon attributed much of today's diminished morality to "the breakdown in family life."

She said parents in broken families or parents who do not spend much time with their children are less inclined to teach their children strong moral values.

"We must ground our children in the Word of God. We must see the Word of God as our resource against immorality," she said.

Edgemon said immorality affects all walks of life, from fallen politicians and religious leaders to insider trading on Wall Street and improprieties in college sports.

Christian ethics, she said, is affected by five basic social institutions -- economics, education, family, government and religion.

Moral problems rarely involve only one of these social institutions, she said.

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Education on moral and ethical issues is a role which could and should be carried out by the churches, said Edgemon.

"Sometimes as Christians, we are not seen as being 'with it,' but we have the responsibility of trying to shape the morals of the society in which we live."

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Pink cash teaches value  
of cooperative giving

By Sarah Zimmerman

*N-AMBS*

Baptist Press  
7/6/90

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries resorted to gimmicks and quick moves to raise money during a make-believe demonstration of life without the Cooperative Program.

Ten fake \$10 bills were given to each person registering for "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in the North Carolina mountains. Participants were told to give the pink paper money to missionaries that impressed them during an afternoon missions fair.

The random distribution of funds resulted in one missionary couple having to carry their wad of money in a plastic bag. Another missionary gathered only \$30 because she was caring for her children and doing laundry the afternoon of the missions fair.

The project illustrated the inequity of requiring missionaries to raise their own support, said Bill O'Brien, executive director of public affairs for the Foreign Mission Board.

The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget, is "the genius of cooperative missions that every other major missions effort would like to have," O'Brien said. He commended Jericho participants for giving \$5,771 in real money to the Cooperative Program the day before "so all home and foreign missionaries will get an equal share."

During the missions fair, Betty Walker said a Christian theme park was being built on the island of Dominica where she and her husband Fred serve as foreign missionaries. With a large gift, she jested, a water slide would be named for the donor. In reality, an amusement park is in stark contrast to the Walkers' evangelistic ministry among the poor and often malnourished islanders.

Raul Vazquez, language missionary in Miami, wasn't as bold. "I have a hard time asking for money," he said. "If this were real, I'd be one of the poor missionaries."

Bob Freeman, a home missionary in Buffalo, N.Y., gained sympathy by describing the cold, harsh winters in western New York. He also gathered money by picking pockets as people listened to his tales.

At the beginning of the missions fair, Joe and Elaine Armstrong contributed to the first missionaries they saw. But the members of Bardstown Baptist Church in Bardstown, Ky., were determined to "figure out a system" to distribute their money more evenly.

Iris Thomas, member of Brewer Lake Baptist Church in Day, Fla., also tried to be fair with her contributions. However, she said, "I almost gave it all to one lady; she was doing such a good job asking for it."

The Pettyjohn family, including parents Andy and Susan and sons John Mark and David, gave their money away on a first-seen, first-served basis. Consequently, foreign missionaries dressed in attire from the countries they serve received most of the family's money. The Pettyjohns are members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Independence, Mo.

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Garland and Martha Middleton, members of Southside Baptist Church in Blakely, Ga., gave all the money they had to a foreign missions couple "because they said they needed it."

It didn't take long for Mary Jo Thompson to see the purpose of the project. "I'm uncomfortable with this," said the member of First Baptist Church of Corpus Christi, Texas. "I love the Cooperative Program."

Ada Fernandez, missionary to Hispanics in Georgia, said the afternoon reminded her of the need for missions education. At breakfast Monday she met a Florida pastor and his wife. She described her work, and they continued the dialogue at lunch. During the missions fair, the couple sought Fernandez to give her their money.

"When people know about missions, they give," Fernandez concluded.

Jericho is a week-long missions festival sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission and Sunday School Board. The annual sessions at both Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers were begun last year.

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