

**(BP)**

**-- BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 19, 1990

90-171

Freed hostage says prayers  
'made the difference'

F-FMB

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist worker Maurice Graham, just back from four months of captivity in Kuwait, says the prayers of thousands of Christians "made the difference in survival."

Graham, who went to Kuwait to work with the National Evangelical Church, found shelter at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City from the early days of the Iraqi invasion until his departure to freedom Dec. 9. His wife and two sons were allowed to leave Kuwait in September. Graham issued the following statement Dec. 13 to Southern Baptists and others who prayed for his safe return:

"All my life I have been told that prayer makes the difference, but when I actually experienced an outpouring of prayer from thousands of Christians around the world that were praying specifically for me and my situation, it made the difference in survival.

"A day did not go by in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait that I was not aware that thousands of Baptists were praying specifically for me and my family. There were days when I was frightened for my physical well-being and uncertain about how well my wife and children were coping back home without me. What made the difference is knowing that people were holding us up in prayer and I knew that God would respond to their heartfelt petitions.

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve as one of your missionaries in God's work in his kingdom. Knowing that prayer makes a difference, I ask you to continue to pray for the hundreds of thousands of Americans in the Middle East who are serving their country -- that they will have a positive Christian witness in the most closed country for sharing the gospel.

"My other prayer concern is for the five lay leaders who I left in charge of the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ in a hostile, broken country. Pray that they would have the spiritual resources to meet the challenge that God has placed before them."

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Governor proclaimed day  
to pray for America

CO  
N-GA

Baptist Press  
12/19/90

CLARKSTON, Ga. (BP)--Georgia Baptists have been urged to join together in prayer for America, Dec. 23.

Governor Joe Frank Harris has proclaimed that date as a National Day of Fasting, Repentance and Prayer for America.

In his proclamation Harris stated, "Our state and nation were founded upon a deep belief in and commitment to God, and over the years our citizens have found strength, comfort and inspiration through prayer.

"Since 1775 National Days of Prayer have been part of our heritage and spiritual foundation for the growth of our state and country," Harris continued.

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Harris invited people of the State of Georgia, "to gather in their homes and places of worship to lift up to God their heartfelt concerns for our nation and pray for His intervention so that America may avert war in the Middle East before January 15, 1991.

Harris appealed to all faiths, not just Southern Baptists, to join in this observance.  
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CORRECTION:

In (BP) story "Chapman invites SBC committee appointment recommendations" dated 12/13/90 please change the second paragraph to read as follows:

Chapman focused attention on people to serve as members of the 1991 Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee and Tellers Committee, all of which are appointed by the president.

Also add the following sentence to the 10th paragraph:

All recommendation forms must be postmarked by Feb. 22, 1991.

Thank you,  
Baptist Press

EDITORS' NOTE: A copy of the SBC Committee Recommendation Form is available upon request from Baptist Press.

Armed Forces Radio  
to carry The Baptist Hour

Baptist Press  
12/19/90

*N-CO Texas*

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) will carry The Baptist Hour over its radio network for 13 weeks starting in the spring of 1991.

Through AFRTS, the program will be heard by more than a million military and civilian members of the Department of Defense stationed overseas and their families, as well as by department personnel aboard ships at sea, including those in the Persian Gulf.

The program will not be heard in Saudi Arabia, however. "Out of consideration for the request of our Saudi hosts, we do not have any religious programming there," said Chaplain, Richard Davenport, of the U.S.A.F., the religious programming coordinator for AFRTS.

AFRTS, which has its broadcast center in the Los Angeles suburb of Sun Valley, has about 500 radio outlets (stations). Religious programs are selected by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board.

The Baptist Hour, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 1991, is produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. AFRTS also carries another RTVC radio program, Master Control.

Religious programs used by AFRTS must have an application to contemporary life issues and are directed primarily to 18- to 30-year-olds.

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Court ruling supports  
arbitration agreements

By Larry Chesser

*N-CO BJC*

Baptist Press  
12/19/90

WASHINGTON (BP)--A recent New Jersey court ruling suggests a very practical step churches and religious organizations may take to avoid expensive civil litigation, according to a church-state attorney.

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Oliver Thomas, in an article in the current issue of Report from the Capital, says the New Jersey case clearly suggests that the use of well-drafted arbitration and conciliation agreements in employment contracts and in church or organization bylaws may be a successful way of keeping church disputes from becoming expensive legal battles.

In the New Jersey case, a synagogue filed suit seeking to terminate its rabbi after a lengthy dispute. The trial court concluded the dispute was essentially ecclesiastical and referred the dispute to a board of rabbis, whose judgment both parties agreed to accept.

After considering testimony and documentary evidence, the board of rabbis ordered the synagogue to pay the rabbi \$100,000 and he was asked to resign his position.

Dissatisfied, the synagogue refused and again sought relief in civil courts. But the trial court, finding that both parties had freely and voluntarily consented to the board's adjudication, threw out the case.

Thomas, legal counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, said the case has obvious implications for churches.

"In light of the court's ruling, I see no reason why an arbitration agreement could not be included in the employment contract between a church and its ministers," he said, "or, more importantly, why a similar agreement could not be incorporated in the church bylaws and made applicable to all disputes between members and the congregation."

Present and future members would have to be notified of the agreement, Thomas said, but "a well-drafted arbitration or conciliation provision could protect a church from a variety of lawsuits, ranging from claims of clergy malpractice to simple negligence."

Thomas said such agreements could specify that disputes be referred to an outside arbitration service or could provide that the dispute be resolved in-house by submitting them to a church governing board, whose decision could be appealed to the full congregation.

"Certainly there are limitations to any such arbitration agreement," Thomas said, noting that minors, for example, ordinarily cannot waive their claims before reaching the age of majority. He also said it is possible some courts might find such an arbitration agreement a violation of public policy.

"But this is unlikely, given the courts' preference for arbitration over litigation and their hesitation to accept jurisdiction over ecclesiastical disputes anyway," he said.

"While there are no guarantees, the New Jersey decision is encouraging to those who wish to stem the rising tide of litigation against churches," Thomas said. "For friends of religious liberty, that's good news."

In the article, Thomas provides suggested wording and religious organizations may adopt for resolving disputes either through an outside mediation service or through in-house methods.

The article is available by writing the Baptist Joint Committee at 200 Maryland Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C., 20002, or by calling 202-544-4226.

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CORRECTION:

In the (BP) story "Fixed fund rate projected 8.8 percent for '91" dated 12/12/90 change the sixth graph to read as follows:

The fixed fund has invested assets of more than \$1 billion in guaranteed investment contracts issued by major insurance companies, bank investment contracts and related deposit products issued by commercial banks, and high-quality money market investments.

Thank you,  
Baptist Press

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Graduates exhorted  
to cling to Scripture

F-10 (SBTS)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Graduates at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's 166th commencement were urged to base their ministries on the "miracle working power of the word of God."

"God's word is where the power is," said Duke K. McCall, chancellor at the Louisville, Ky., school. "Use it in your teaching and preaching. That's where the power is. Let's not argue about it. Just turn it loose. It'll do the work."

McCall, president of Southern Seminary for 31 years until retiring from the post in 1982, advised the 187 graduates to "take the high ground" in the current denominational debate about Scripture and "stay out of the valley where little men are slashing each other with their shibboleths."

During the Dec. 14 commencement, the seminary presented the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award to Emmanuel L. McCall, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's black church extension division, and the George W. Norton Award to Joseph Stopher, a Louisville attorney.

The Mullins award, the seminary's highest award, is named in honor of the late president of Southern Seminary who served from 1899 until his death in 1928. The award is the seminary's equivalent of an honorary doctorate.

McCall, a Home Mission Board staff member since 1968, has taught 20 January terms as a visiting professor of black church studies at Southern Seminary.

The Norton award, named in memory of the late Louisville businessman and seminary benefactor, is presented annually to honor outstanding service and contributions to the Seminary.

Stopher served a total of 33 years on the seminary's board of trustees before leaving the board in 1985.

In a separate commencement ceremony the same day, Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Seminary that trains ministers who do not have college degrees, awarded diplomas or certificates to 18 graduates.

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Migrant children  
see love in action

By Barbara Denman

F-10 (Fla.)

Baptist Press  
12/19/90

LEESBURG, Fla. (BP)--Fernando Barrientes of LaBelle went to Florida Baptists' migrant camp expecting it to be "boring," but he found instead it was "a lot of fun."

The 14-year-old also learned about Jesus. "You've got to take him into your heart, and your life will change," Fernando said.

Changing lives was what the camp was all about.

Nearly 200 children of migrant and seasonal farm workers from across the state attended Florida Baptists' first migrant camp for children Dec. 7-9 at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly. The youngsters traveled by car and church van from places like Immokalee, Homestead, Mascotte and Lake Placid.

They were greeted by volunteers instructed to "give these kids all the love and attention you can," said Brenda Forlines, associate in the missions ministries department and camp director. "I want them to go out of here having a positive experience. I want them to see Christ living in each of us."

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An estimated 88,000 to 150,000 migrants come to Florida each year to harvest crops between October and March. Because the families travel from state to state, renting low-cost homes and trailers, most of the children lack stability, education and many of the simple pleasures of childhood.

Forlines had initiated the camping experience after learning that because migrants are not usually in Florida during the summer months, their children have not been able to participate in camps held for children's mission groups.

It was with that in mind that all of the activities during the three days were planned. Children decorated a Christmas tree, ate Christmas cookies, made ornaments, painted T-shirts, joined in on a hayride, heard a clown who told them that Jesus solves problems, watched a magician as he shared about God's love, and opened presents given by hundreds of Florida Baptists.

But not all things went as planned. The weather refused to cooperate, turning bitter cold and icy wet. Most of the children from South Florida came unprepared for the change in climate, some bringing only thongs in place of shoes.

After a few calls, churches from Lake County Baptist Association, the workers at the Lake Yale assembly and counselors donated sweaters, sweatshirts and coats to clothe all of the children. Counselors purchased sneakers and socks for children who had none.

The opening of hearts to provide clothes was overwhelming, according to Forlines. But, she said, she had been amazed at how Florida Baptists had responded to the entire project.

Because migrant children are unable to pay their way to camp, Woman's Missionary Union groups across the state were asked to underwrite the cost of scholarships to send the migrants, ages 9 through 15, to camp. Women and children across the state contributed to the fund. A youth group sponsored a car wash to raise money for the camp. A vacation Bible school group designated their weekly offering to send six children to camp. In all, nearly \$15,000 was contributed to the project.

Gifts for the children arrived at the state convention office in Jacksonville by the dozens. Women at Jacksonville's Crown Point Baptist Church made 200 Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls to give the children. The Women's Missionary Union of the Marion County Association baked 500 cookies for the girls and boys to decorate.

Forlines estimates that "thousands of people have been involved in this. They have experienced the true meaning of Christmas by sharing the love of Christ through giving."

Helen Gallegos, 43, who works with migrants in LaBelle, was one of the persons who suggested having a camping experience for the migrant children. Once a migrant worker herself, Gallegos said that she had always wanted to go to camp but never had the opportunity until this past week.

The young Hispanic woman proudly proclaimed the camp as "wonderful."

"These kids are really enjoying just having fun," she said. "Usually they go to school, come home and do chores -- maybe babysit their sisters and brothers. When they are 12 or 14 they go out to work on the farms to help with the income of the family."

"It's important that they go somewhere and do something that they've never done before in their lives. This is one thing these kids will never forget."

Etienne Delphin, pastor of the Lake Placid Haitian Mission, brought 27 children to the camp. "I appreciate Florida Baptists for this," he said. "Children today have many problems. I hope we can continue this every year, for the devil is busy."

T-shirts given to each youngster bore the weekend's theme "I Am a Promise," a message that seemed to stick with the campers.

Leticia Rodriguez, 14, who was excited to meet many new friends during the weekend. One of the friends she met during the weekend, she said, was Jesus. "You can pray to him and he'll help you out. He's a promise."

For both the migrant children -- 13 of whom made professions of faith -- and the volunteers that helped, the weekend did bring a promise. It's a promise that lives can be touched and changed when Florida Baptists find a way -- through money, gifts or even cookies -- to share Jesus Christ.

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Southwestern Seminary Graduates  
284 During Fall Commencement

Baptist Press  
12/19/90

F-CO  
(SWBTS)

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--In a country where success is worshipped the speaker at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's fall commencement asked graduates how they will measure success in ministry.

"Will success mark you ministry?" William Crews president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., asked the graduates during the ceremonies Dec. 14. Looking at the life of Joshua, Crews pointed out some would say success depends upon who you are, and others would say it depends upon where you are. The key is to be a willing person, he said.

"If He can find you as a person whom He can put His hand on, then you will be successful," Crews said. He told the graduates they needed to be the kind of people God chooses to bless.

Southwestern President Russell Dilday conferred degrees on 284 students. The class included 33 receiving doctor's degrees. Degrees were awarded to 11 from the school of church music, 128 from the school of religious education, and 159 from the school of theology. Five students received the Diploma in Christian Ministry awarded by the seminary under the Ethnic Leadership Development Program of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Crews asked the graduates to consider three criteria for a successful ministry.

First, weakness is a necessary ingredient for a minister, he said. "You cannot be too small for God to use, but you can be too big," Crews said.

Second, Crews said a minister must be wise, spending time in God's Word. "The real crux of the issue is are you going to do what the Bible says," Crews added that any ministry built on anything but God's principles will fail.

Crews closed by asking the graduates if they would be willing for God to bless them, saying the real secret of Joshua's success was that "he was committed to the doing of God's will.

"This is the kind of pop quiz that you have to get an 'A' plus on, or you fail," he said.

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Minneapolis church defies  
Southern Baptist stereotypes

By Susan Todd

F-CO  
(Wmu)

Baptist Press  
12/19/90

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)--New Hope Neighborhood Baptist Church is not the stereotypical Southern Baptist church ...

-- Unless it's typical for the pastor to have to take ski gloves off a little boy's hands before handing him the offering plate to pass through the congregation,

-- Unless it's typical for each adult in the congregation to be asked to sit with at least two children for crowd and behavior control,

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-- Unless it's typical for the worship center to be transformed from a community center to a church by 9 a.m. each Sunday, and then back to a community center by noon.

While New Hope Neighborhood Baptist Church is not a stereotypical Southern Baptist church, it is a thriving four-year-old Southern Baptist church in Minneapolis. It also is one of less than five Southern Baptist congregations within the city of more than 350,000 people.

Although the church is small, New Hope reaches people from all walks of life.

Bob Edwards, pastor of the church, and his wife, Karen, moved to Minneapolis five years ago from Janesville, Wis., to start a church. They had limited financial support from the state convention and from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Most of their financial support came from family members who believed in what they were doing.

"We became convicted God wanted us to start this church," he said. "We had no names, no other impetus to start anything here."

The Edwardses, joined by their two teen-age sons, surveyed 1,400 homes in the neighborhood.

"We got one person," Bob Edwards said.

Today the ratio is a little better, and so is their growth strategy. The Edwardses have found missions organizations to be the most effective means they have to draw people to church.

"You look for prospects and something you can do with a minimum amount of preparation and maximum return," he said. "There is no better way than to invest in children -- particularly in an after-school activity."

The after-school activity New Hope began was Girls in Action, the missions organization for girls in grades one through six. GAS is sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"GAS provides a natural kind of activity because kids are interested in other countries and other cultures," Edwards said. "When you get them to GAS, you can come in the back door and teach them what the missionaries teach."

And according to Edwards, teaching the same thing that missionaries teach is what growing a church is all about.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by WMU.

Minneapolis church gets growth  
spurt from Girls in Action

By Susan Todd

Baptist Press  
12/19/90  
F-10 (Wmu)

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)--One-A-Day vitamins, Peters fertilizer and Girls in Action all have something in common. They each help make something else grow big and strong.

Thanks to Girls in Action, New Hope Neighborhood Baptist Church in Minneapolis, is growing bigger and stronger. Girls in Action is the missions organization sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades one through six.

"Girls in Action gives us prospects -- the best prospects we get," said Bob Edwards, pastor of the 20-member church. "We're able to work through the GAS to get their parents and brothers and sisters to church."

Getting the families to church is no small feat. Most of the children involved in the missions organizations of New Hope have no church background.

"Their mothers didn't go to church, or their grandmothers," Edwards said. "There are generations who haven't been to church." Even though most of the families don't have a

"Their mothers didn't go to church, or their grandmothers," Edwards said. "There are generations who haven't been to church." Even though most of the families don't have a church background, the parents are supportive of their children being involved in GAs.

In addition to GAs, the children have become involved in Sunday activities at the church. On an average Sunday morning at New Hope church, many of the 30 or so faces in Sunday school and in the morning worship service will be the same faces found in the Tuesday afternoon meeting of GAs or the Monday afternoon meeting of Acteens. Acteens is the WMU missions organization for girls in grades seven through 12.

However, in the collage of faces, one face is common to GAs, Acteens, Sunday school and the morning worship service -- Bob's wife, Karen, who is the leader of GAs and Acteens.

Karen Edwards began GAs about two years ago with only two girls. The organization has grown to involve between 15 and 20 girls involved each week. Last fall, since there were girls who were old enough to move from GAs to Acteens, Karen began the teen-age organization. This group boasts an average of 10 girls each week.

"We were all discouraged before we started the missions organizations," Karen said.

"They (the missions organizations) have picked us up as a church," Bob said.

Many of the girls who attend GAs and Acteens are "latchkey children" from homes where they are left to fend for themselves after school hours. Many of them come from problem homes and rough neighborhoods, Karen said.

Halloween found the Acteens throwing a party at a home for abused women and their children. But there was something beyond the party hats and cupcakes which the girls remember.

"Just by looking at the kids' faces, you knew what they were going through," said Cindy Miller (not her real name), a seventh-grade Acteen.

"Some things don't go right in the family, and the wife can be abused," she said. "It happened to my mom, and I knew what they were going through. I was feeling what they were feeling."

Cindy became a Christian at GA camp last summer.

Acteens and GAs also give the girls an opportunity to support each other.

The hour before Acteens and GAs begin, Bob or Karen Edwards drive a van to all corners of Minneapolis to pick up the girls for the weekly meeting. It's an hour where camaraderie is strengthened and problems are shared.

Casey Carlson, a seventh-grade Acteen, climbed aboard the van on one of the recent runs.

"We had to break into our house today," she said. "Grandma's not home, and we don't know where she is."

The other girls in the van expressed concern and offered hope that everything would be O.K. when she got home after Acteens.

"If she's not there when we get back, I'll go with you, and we'll see if we can find her," Bob assured her.

But the girls aren't the only ones who get support. Once they get to the weekly meeting, their attention turns to other corners of the world. For this particular session, their attention turns to the Middle East -- the focus of the Foreign Mission Study.

At one time or another during the two-hour Middle Eastern "marathon," each girl got to play dress-up in Middle Eastern garb. In the process, they learned some of the reasons for the different style of dress.

Shietha Parker, a 9-year-old GA, said, "If you're a woman and you're getting married to one man, you can't let another man see how beautiful your face is." It was her version of why many Middle Eastern women veil their faces.

Only one thing ranks higher among the girls than playing dress-up at GAs and Acteens -- learning about the missionaries.

"I like to learn about missionaries," said Frankie DePew, an 8-year-old GA. "I learn what country they're in and what they do."

DePew, an avid letter-writer, corresponds with two MKs.

"MKs are missionary kids," she explained.

Her friendship with Emily and Kyle Wilson is teaching her about life in Transkei.

"Emily told me what happens in her church and about her dad and about how they're doing and their life over there," she said without losing her place working a puzzle about the Middle East.

DePew's friendships are now global, thanks to a simple knock at her door by the Edwardses inviting her to GAs.

In fact, most of the girls at Acteens and GAs say they are members today because the Edwardses knocked on their doors and invited them to Acteens or GAs.

"I want these kids to learn, 'Yes. You've got problems, but you can go and tell other people about Jesus,'" Karen said.

Go and tell, they are, and they're growing a church in the process.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by WMU.

'School of hard knocks' prepared  
WMU leader for missions work

By Susan Todd

F-60  
(WMU)

Baptist Press  
12/19/90

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)--Karen Edwards didn't go to school to learn what she does.

"It's been 'learn by doing,'" she said of her roles as wife, mother, missions leader, van driver, Sunday school teacher, counselor and friend.

Edwards has learned to fine-tune her skills through the ranks of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"When I moved to Wisconsin 14 years ago, I had always been a member or officer of some WMU missions organization," she said.

That tradition has continued. Today, Edwards is serving her third term as state WMU president for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention. By virtue of her state position, Edwards also is on the national WMU executive board. But she hasn't let her state and national responsibilities overshadow opportunities for service at home.

Bob Edwards, her husband, is pastor of the New Hope Neighborhood Baptist Church in Minneapolis. The Edwardses moved to Minneapolis four years ago specifically to start a church within the city.

After studying the area, talking with associational and state Baptist leaders, and visiting existing churches of all denominations within the area, they became convicted that God wanted them to start a church in the middle-class southern part of Minneapolis.

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"Over three years, we surveyed 1,400 homes and got one person to church," Bob said.

The low response wasn't because all the people weren't interested in church.

"It's a church area," Karen said, referring to the predominant Lutheran and Catholic neighborhoods.

In the beginning, the people who were interested in the new church were from an area a little north of the neighborhood they had targeted.

They weren't the residents of the middle-class neighborhood. They were residents of a poorer neighborhood a few blocks north -- including many people who had no church background.

"We finally said, 'We've got these people, let's reach them,'" Karen said.

The one effort that reaped the most rewards for the young church was establishing missions organizations -- particularly Girls in Action, the WMU missions organization for girls in grades one through six.

Less than two years ago, Karen started GAs with only two girls. Today, the group has grown to include almost 20 -- most of whom attend Sunday school and worship services at New Hope on Sundays. The membership of the church now equals the membership of GAs.

"The missions organizations really picked us up as a church," Bob said.

The club atmosphere of the group and the girls' interest in other cultures are two of the reasons the girls have become so devoted to GAs, Karen said.

The girls list their leaders' genuine interest and love for them as another reason.

"I have a love for missions and always have," Karen said. "I want to pass that along. Also, I have searched for a handle to help these kids personally and to help them to come to know the Lord.

"This (GAs) gives me the opportunity to hang onto them long enough to minister to them and work with them."

Karen has found she doesn't have to be blatant in her presentation of the gospel message in order to be heard. Teaching about missionaries and what they do gives her a perfect opportunity to witness to the girls every week.

Her efforts have not gone without rewards. Within the last year, four members of GAs and two of their moms have made professions of faith as a direct result of Karen's work.

There is no school where she could have learned all the things she needed to know to do what she's doing now, she said. Karen credits God as her best resource possible.

"I am thoroughly convinced that it is God, and he is doing this. I don't know where you'd go to study this kind of thing.

"School of hard knocks? You bet!"

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by WMU.

Status quo for  
Southeastern

N-50 Baptist Press  
S&BTS 12/19/90

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has maintained Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's "warning" status for another year.

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In a decision announced Wednesday, December 12, at the close of its annual meeting, SACS decided to continue the current status of "warning." SACS indicated that there had been significant improvement at Southeastern. However, the "warning" status will be retained for an additional year while the school continues to address its concerns.

The seminary was notified by phone of the agency's decision by Dr. James Rogers, Executive Director of Commissions on Colleges for SACS. Rogers indicated that a formal letter defining the decision of the Commission will be forthcoming to the Seminary. Rogers told Seminary President Lewis A. Drummond that he would personally work with the school to help resolve the final areas of concern.

Dr. L. Russ Bush, III, Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the Faculty, in response to the continued "warning" status, said, "I think the SACS decision is quite understandable. Though we have implemented several processes to address accreditation issues, in some cases we have not yet completed them."

The faculty selection procedure was cited as one example. "We adopted a new faculty selection process that we hope will meet the Commission's expectations, but it will not have produced a candidate until March of 1991. Until we work the process all the way through at least once, it is hard for anyone to make a final evaluation of its effectiveness. Thus SACS has maintained the status quo until we have had time to let the new process run its course." Bush said he believes that information about the Faculty/Trustee retreat held in early October has helped SACS to see that the Seminary is making a strong effort to meet all of their criteria.

President Drummond said, "We are dedicated to meet all SACS criteria concerns. I am gratified that we have apparently met some of their concerns. The warning leaves our accreditation fully and completely intact. We believe we will be able to resolve all of their concerns in the next year. We have a thorough process that we will go through to resolve differences and problems, but Dr. Rogers indicated that the commission felt we are making real progress."