



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE:  
SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2351  
Herb Hollinger, Vice President  
Fax (615) 742-8911  
CompuServe ID# 70420.1

**BUREAUS**

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522  
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232  
NASHVILLE Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

August 2, 1991

91-115

Ministry to Mormons objects  
to Salt Lake City meeting

*NCO*

MARLOW, Okla. (BP)--Utah Missions, Inc., a ministry directed at Mormonism and recently incorporated into the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has called for the Southern Baptist Convention to rescind a decision approved in Atlanta in June to go to Salt Lake City for the 1988 annual meeting.

Robert McKay, associate editor of The Evangel, a monthly publication of Utah Missions, Inc., called for the SBC in its Indianapolis annual meeting next year to rescind the Salt Lake City decision. His front page article is in the July-August issue of the tabloid-type newspaper said to be distributed to contributors and friends of Utah Missions, Inc.

Utah Missions, Inc., based in Marlow, Okla., is a non-profit, religious organization with a purpose to foster and promote the ministries of John L. Smith, for 17 years a Baptist pastor and minister in Utah. Smith is listed as editor-publisher of the paper.

The SBC Home Mission Board voted this year to add Utah Missions as a subsidiary corporation. Smith had offered to transfer the ministry to the HMB upon his retirement. The board's interfaith witness department directors supervise the ministry.

"We call upon the Southern Baptist Convention ...to rescind the decision ... There is plenty of time to choose another city, and there are plenty of cities to choose from," said McKay. He listed Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Seattle, Boston, New York City, Chicago, Indianapolis and "traditional southern meeting sites," as possibilities.

"There is no need to expose thousands of Southern Baptists to possible deception, when there are so many alternatives," said McKay.

Proportionately, very few Southern Baptists know enough about the LDS church to deal with an average Mormon, McKay said.

"When the convention gathers in Salt Lake, it will be trained missionaries the messengers will face. While no doubt many messengers will 'just say no,' experience shows that far too many, in trying to witness to the missionaries, will themselves become hooked by the deceptive LDS message," said McKay.

An economic reason not to go to Utah was also cited by McKay, who said "there is no need for Southern Baptists money to go, directly or indirectly, to support such an organization."

"The idea of sending thousands of unwary Christians into such an environment is distressing," said McKay. "To do so is to invite large numbers of conversions to Mormonism ... I must strongly protest this decision by the (SBC)."

--30--

Injured Baptist worker  
recovering in London

By Ken Camp

*N-Duxas*

Baptist Press  
8/2/91

DALLAS (BP)--A Texas Baptist relief worker in Kazakhstan, U.S.S.R., who was the victim of an ethnically motivated beating is recovering in London following reconstructive surgery.

--more--

Kevin Buss, a member of Yorktown Baptist Church of Corpus Christi was working in the Soviet Union's second-largest republic with the London-based Global Partners humanitarian relief agency when the assault occurred.

Buss and his wife, Kristina, were among 330 U.S. citizens who participated in the first Kazakh-American Cultural Festival in Alma-Ata, June 21-July 6.

Three days after the close of the festival, Buss was assaulted by two drunken Kazakhs who mistook him for a Russian. The beating left him with a concussion, a dislocated jaw, three broken facial bones and a cracked molar.

Buss was shuffled to four different hospitals in Alma-Ata and had two operations there before he was moved to London where he underwent additional facial and dental surgery.

In spite of the experience, the Busses were described by Global Partners personnel as being "in good spirits (and) ... anxious to return to the Soviet Union and continue their work," possibly as soon as Aug. 10.

--30--

Baptist schools expand  
exchanges with Soviets

By Erich Bridges

Baptist Press  
8/2/91

N-RMB

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Despite world instability and war, Southern Baptist colleges and universities have expanded their international programs in the last year -- especially in the Soviet Union.

Southern Baptist institutions have signed agreements to exchange students and teachers with sister schools in exotic spots like Tashkent, Alma-Ata, Bishkek and Baku as these capitals of once-isolated Soviet republics eagerly seek Western aid.

Developing such relationships can be painful, but they're worth the pain, according to participants.

The first year of exchange with Kazakh State University in Alma-Ata, capital of the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, was "the best of times ... the worst of times," reported Treva Gibson, international programs coordinator at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix.

"Our students there experienced many unavoidable first-year difficulties, but perhaps some avoidable problems due to inadequate communication and misunderstandings between sides," she admitted. "But we all agree that the program is well worth continuing and the difficulties have been outweighed by the benefits."

Some Southern Baptist students participating in foreign exchanges came home early -- or never went at all -- because of conditions created by the Persian Gulf war.

Foreign students coming to Southern Baptist schools don't always find ideal situations, either. One visiting Soviet student observed the U.S. campus he came to "was not so beautiful, but the people were very beautiful."

The growth of Southern Baptist academic involvement abroad coincides with three profound developments:

1. The explosion of East-West exchange opportunities created by the opening of China followed by the old Soviet bloc.
2. The growing worldwide demand for teachers of English, the dominant language of international commerce and communication.
3. The demand for knowledge about democratic institutions, market economics and religious values in formerly communist states.

--more--

It also coincides with the expansion of the Cooperative Services International Education Consortium, created in 1987. Leaders of 26 Southern Baptist schools joined forces that year at the urging of Cooperatives Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization, to offer their combined educational resources to China and other primarily communist countries asking for assistance. The consortium has grown to 36 member institutions in the years since.

Despite the fears and uncertainty created by the violent 1989 crackdown on Chinese student protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, CSIEC member schools have continued exchange partnerships with universities in China. They include relationships with institutions in Beijing, Shanghai, Zhengzhou, Yantai and Urumqi in the far west.

Scant months after Tiananmen, the Berlin Wall came down and the old Iron Curtain quickly collapsed.

"The timing is remarkable," said consortium President Dan Grant, president-emeritus of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. "When China began to turn away from communism and toward a market economy and a more open door, it was understandable we would begin to move in there. And then the Tiananmen Square thing came along and sort of delayed that development.

"But right at that very time doors began to open up in the Soviet Union. Now China is going slower but we still have about as much going on in China as we could have imagined in the early stages. So we have programs in both countries, plus some interesting things developing in Eastern Europe."

Grant also is surprised at how fast Southern Baptist schools have come together to respond to the new opportunities.

"From my perspective -- and all of my life I've been in academia -- I've been amazed at how quickly our Baptist colleges and universities have moved in these strategic areas," he observed. "Colleges and universities and particularly their faculties don't move very quickly on anything. But in just four short years of the existence of this consortium, we have developed a lot of solid relationships and exchange programs in China and the Soviet Union."

Grant's own institution, Ouachita, is the "flagship" school for consortium relationships with the Soviet republic of Uzbekistan. Four other Southern Baptist institutions -- Baylor University, Mississippi College, Belmont College and Samford University -- also agreed to exchanges there after sending representatives to meet Uzbek officials in Tashkent last October. An Uzbek delegation visited the United States earlier last year.

One of the first results of the agreement is a five-week Summer Business School that began in mid-July at the Tashkent National Economic Institute, led by three business professors from Ouachita and Hardin-Simmons University. Their spouses are teaching conversational English.

"I'm convinced that this business school will become a model for many others," Grant said. "The economic institute asked us to send them a staff for a summer school and they spelled out courses designed to help their students understand a free-market economy. They have chosen 50 of their best economic and business students. I'm convinced they are the ablest of the young people in Uzbekistan, primarily because they know the future is in this area of business and economics."

Meanwhile, Mississippi College has expanded its Soviet relationships to the republic of Kirghizia in addition to its participation in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The college played host to a Kirghiz delegation in January to discuss possibilities.

And three education officials from yet another Soviet republic, Azerbaijan, have signed agreements to work toward exchanges of students, faculties and cooperative research with Hardin-Simmons, Baylor, Wayland Baptist University and Houston Baptist University.

Another advantage of CSIEC's consortium approach: small Baptist colleges new to the international scene can participate alongside big schools like Baylor University that already have extensive exchange programs.

"It has made it possible for the smaller colleges to have a piece of the action in a whole variety of international exchange experiences," Grant said. "The beauty of this is that the consortium isn't trying to advertise itself. It has no monopoly on the name. We encourage Shorter College in Georgia to advertise its program as 'Shorter in China.' It's good public relations for them, good student recruitment for them, good faculty recruitment for them. It's splitting up the overhead cost of exchange programs in a way that the small schools can be full partners."

Foreign students coming to the United States also get "tender loving care at the smaller colleges in ways they wouldn't get in the giant megaversities," he added.

--30--

Volunteer business people sought  
for Kazakh economics institute

By Marty Groll

Baptist Press  
8/1/91

N. F. M. B.

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (BP)--In the late afternoon light of the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, a multistory building stands out starkly against the sky. Once the Marxist Training Center, it's now a monument to a passing day.

As officials in Moscow grapple with deciding how free they will allow the economies of the Soviet republics to become -- and how soon -- many in Kazakhstan look to this building as a symbol of hope.

Within months it should be fully operational as the Presidential Institute of Economics and Business. Its agenda: to teach Kazakhs how to compete in a free-market economy.

Among its teachers will be Southern Baptists.

Korean-born American Chan Young Bang, advisor to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, plans to use a smorgasbord of training in the classroom and at job sites to confront Kazakhstan's leaders with free-market ideas.

Joining his teaching staff will be Southern Baptist business people recruited through Cooperative Services International, the denomination's service agency. CSI officials promised to supply volunteer personnel as a follow-up to the June 21-July 6 exchange venture involving CSI, the Central Asian Foundation and the republic.

The first Kazakh-American Cultural Festival drew 330 Americans and more than 100,000 Kazakhs. The Central Asian Foundation, a non-profit corporation that directs Christian aid toward human and economic development, initiated the cultural exchange with Southern Baptist cooperation. Americans of many denominations participated.

The strategic importance of the vast Kazakhstan republic -- and the clout of its leader -- were demonstrated during the just-completed U.S.-Soviet summit when Mikhail Gorbachev invited Kazakh president Nazarbayev to attend one of the summit sessions with George Bush. Boris Yeltsin, president of the dominant Russian republic, was the only other republic president invited.

"In a meeting with the president (Nazarbayev), I expressed concern that the good will and good relationships that had been given life during the exchange should not die away, but should be used as a springboard for the future," said CSI Director Lewis Myers.

Myers said he hopes Southern Baptist business people can make a difference in Kazakhstan. CSI has promised to supply four to six specialists in business for short-term teaching visits to the institute this fall, and three or four more by early next year who will be prepared to stay at least 12 months.

--more--

One Kazakhstan official told Myers, "The problem is, we have made a studied decision to abandon the old market system and to embrace the free-market system. But now we are in between, having abandoned one and not fully implementing the other."

The Southern Baptists probably will lead forums and teach seminars, Myers said. They also might help design curricula. One thing is certain: the ideas they bring will seem very strange at first to Kazakhs.

"From a businessman's point of view, we're a long way off (in Kazakhstan) from having an open society that would enable buying and selling," said Paul Helton, a Southern Baptist steel executive from Pittsburgh. "It's just a beginning." Helton, who has worked extensively in the Soviet Union to develop trade networks, led a delegation of American businessmen during the recent American-Kazakhstan exchange.

"The real key to the institute is that the bureaucrats in places of responsibility must be taught, encouraged, motivated and required to implement what the president wants to implement there," he said. "So there's got to be on-the-job training for these people."

During the exchange, Helton and others in his delegation spoke "in one of the banks to a group of 50 people about banking, law, production, marketing -- all of the things involved in a free market," he said. He found the people lacking any kind of foundation to understand a free economy. "They were very receptive and asked a lot of questions, but they do not have any education or experience in the way we think or do business.

"But we went there with the idea this is going to change, and that's why I was there -- as a businessman, making whatever contribution I could to the business community, as well as having the opportunity to share my Christian witness both by action and words," he said.

CSI is seeking specialists who have the ability to teach, lecture and lead seminars on such topics as marketing, management, finance, economics, computer science or other technical and professional fields. Participants will receive housing, food, utilities and local transportation. Those staying at least a year will receive paid travel.

Interested people should contact CSI, P.O. Box 6841, Richmond, Va. 23230.

--30--

Innovative ministry futile without  
prayer, Baptist leaders declare

By Robert O'Brien

F-FMB

Baptist Press  
8/2/91

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Southern Baptists can find creative ways to reach the world for Christ, but the effort will be futile unless they humble themselves before God and pray, Southern Baptist agency leaders told participants at the Jericho missions festival.

"We don't need new structures to carry out the bold goal of proclaiming Christ to the world by the year 2000; we need to learn how to pray and how to stand before God," Douglas Beggs said in answer to a question about spiritual renewal. He spoke at a "Town Hall" meeting with five Southern Baptist agency heads at the Jericho festival at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Beggs, director of the adult division at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, sat in for James Smith, retiring commission president.

The festival of home and foreign missions, sponsored by five agencies, emphasized creative ways Southern Baptists can break down barriers at home and around the world and "color outside the lines" to reach people for Christ. It followed a similar Jericho festival held July 6-12 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Other "Town Hall" panelists were R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board; Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union; and Martin Bradley, director of corporate planning and research at the Sunday School Board. Bradley substituted for outgoing Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder.

--more--

The Southern Baptist leaders echoed Beggs' assessment of the need for spiritual renewal as they fielded questions about their missions emphases and programs and discussed their dreams for missions in the year 2000.

"At this time Southern Baptists need prayer, repentance, healing and reconciliation more than they need another missions report, as important as that is," said Lewis. He noted his agency relinquished its report time at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta in June to issue a call for prayer and spiritual awakening.

"All of our emphases," O'Brien said, will be "exercises in futility unless we're willing to open our lives to Christ and let him do through us what he wants to do. My dream related to spiritual awakening is that we won't have to ask questions like this (about spiritual renewal) but that it will be so evident through the work of our churches that we'll have more missionaries than we can send and more money than we need to send them."

O'Brien also fielded a question about how WMU envisions the role of women in light of a Home Mission Board position that seems to support the idea of women in missions but declines "to reverse its policy on the ordination of women as ministers."

(The Home Mission Board's action last year declined to reverse a policy against offering financial aid to churches with women pastors. It did not deal directly with ordination.)

"Our denomination is so diverse," responded O'Brien, a former foreign missionary. "We have churches in our convention where women cannot even vote in business meetings, and we have churches with women pastors and everything in between. So to say anything related to women is to offend somebody."

WMU's goal is "to enable girls and women to realize that God calls them for very special services, that they have worth and value and, as the Scripture says, there's no difference between male and female," O'Brien said. "Their accountability to God is the same as that of men. We're going to continue to train little girls to listen to God's voice, to his call. We're going to keep pushing for opportunities for women to live out that call."

On the question of ordination of women, O'Brien said WMU has no policy for or against it, feeling that it's a local church matter. The Home and Foreign mission boards also take the position ordination is a local church decision and neither qualifies nor disqualifies a person for mission service.

"Ordination has troubled and muddied a lot of waters regarding women's service in the church throughout the world and the denomination, and I regret that," O'Brien said. "I do believe that God calls women, that he will enable us to be obedient and accountable to that call when we are faithful to continue to find places of service for those women."

WMU will continue to work with churches to try to find ways women can gain ministry experience that qualifies them to answer God's call to missions, she added.

The Southern Baptist leaders expressed excitement about opportunities opening up for missions, evangelism and church development at home and abroad. But they warned Southern Baptists must increase their willingness to go, to give and to pray to reach the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust goals.

Parks, expressing his dream for missions, said he hopes Southern Baptist churches "regain our understanding of what it means to be a Baptist church and that every church will be a center of world missions -- a place of prayer, a place of giving, a place of sending to touch all of the world.

"One exciting area," Parks continued, "is in networking with (overseas Baptists) and other Great Commission Christian groups so we can know what's happening and stimulate each other to fill in the gaps where nothing is happening -- and so the conventions and unions where our missionaries serve will become such strong mission-sending bodies that they're partnering with us in reaching the whole world."

The five leaders outlined dreams for their agencies to work individually and cooperatively to involve every Southern Baptist in studying and participating in missions from the cities of America to the most distant foreign lands.

Each of the five mentioned cooperative efforts -- something which hasn't always worked well among national agencies and state conventions involved in their own budgets, traditions and program statements.

"My dream is that Southern Baptists can work together to win the world and not be prevented from doing it by artificial boundaries or program statements or history or tradition," Parks said. "I think we're learning to do that."

--30--

All Christians can  
learn from black worship

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
8/2/91

F-10  
SBTS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The black worship heritage has a unique contribution to make to the broader Christian community, emphasized a Texas Baptist minister of music.

Black worship is "an all encompassing experience," said Edward Artis, minister of music at the predominantly black Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston. "The separation of the sacred and social has never been one of our philosophies. It's always been the combination of the two that has made black worship what it is today."

The social aspect of black worship centers on warm, personal relationships and also addresses how Christians relate to society, noted Artis, who taught a course in July on "Music in the Black Worship Tradition" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Worship leaders can improve worship services by drawing from a wide range of traditions, Artis said, adding variety in worship has been Brentwood's approach.

"We have our culture and we want to propagate that, but it is as important to know that we are not isolated from the broader community of faith," he said. "Worship is not about keeping the status quo, but it is always about seeking new plateaus and expressions of praise."

While teaching at Southern Seminary, Artis required the mostly white class to attend a black worship service or choir rehearsal. "The reports that came back indicated that they (the students) sensed much celebration and freedom" among the worshipers, he said.

Black worship, he added, nurtures a "feeling of catharsis" and an "emotional release." On the other hand, the preaching aspect of black worship typically focuses on practical applications to life situations, said Artis.

He said he believes the survival of the black worship tradition is crucial. Contemporary blacks need to hear the resounding message of freedom which is central to much black church music, Artis said:

"We are still oppressed and it still needs to be a part of our agenda to realize there is still oppression going on... . It's the responsibility of persons in leadership to keep this before our people."

--30--

---

NOTICE: Aug. 30, 1991 will be the last day for use of the Jacquard computer in the Baptist Press office. After that date, Baptist Press will be available electronically only on the CompuServe system. We will, of course, continue to mail Baptist Press to all our subscribers. Contact David Haywood at the Baptist Sunday School Board for more information.

Thanks,  
Baptist Press