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August 22, 1991

91-127

SSB budget exceeds \$200 million;
literature price increase canceled By Charles Willis

n-55B

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board approved a 1991-92 budget exceeding \$200 million during their Aug. 19-21 semiannual meeting in Nashville.

They also approved an administration request by canceling a 1992 dated church literature price increase, approved in their February 1991 meeting, in favor of a standardized shipping and handling charge for all retail orders from the board.

The 3-day meeting was highlighted by the Aug. 20 inauguration of James T. Draper Jr. as the eighth president of the board.

The proposed operating budget of \$205.3 million makes the church programs and publishing board the first Southern Baptist Convention agency to exceed a \$200 million budget. The amount is \$14.8 million above the current operating budget and almost \$12 million above the projected 1990-91 income.

A decade ago, the board surpassed the \$100 million mark with an annual 1980-81 budget of \$107.6 million.

In a step designed to standardize shipping charges and simplify order forms, trustees approved a 6 percent shipping and handling charge for all retail orders through all Sunday School Board ordering channels, effective Jan. 1, 1992.

At the same time, they canceled a planned 5 percent increase in dated church literature products which would have been effective with the April-May-June 1992 publications. A shipping charge range of a minimum of \$2.50 per order and a maximum of \$50 was approved.

Certain designated large supplies, such as steeples and baptisteries will be shipped at actual freight cost, and rush shipments and special handling requested by customers will be charged the costs of the service, according to trustee action.

The standardized charges "will simplify the church literature order form on which four different shipping policies now appear and will facilitate development of a corporate distribution system which will permit products from different product lines to be shipped together," said Jimmy D. Edwards, vice president for marketing and distribution.

In other action, business plans and organizational changes related to Genevox Music Group, the audio/video and church supplies department, and the Church Information System department were approved to consolidate resources and improve business performance.

Meanwhile, trustee Chairman Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Clearwater, Fla., appointed a 5-person committee to work with Draper to search for an executive vice president to succeed James D. Williams who has resigned to become president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Search committee members are Dan Collins, an attorney from Taylors, S.C.; Al Jackson, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church of Auburn, Ala.; Kirk Humphreys, businessman from Oklahoma City; Rick Forrester, businessman from Lawrenceville, Ga.; and Frank Palmer, pastor of Forest Avenue Baptist Church, Redmond, Ore.

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"We're in the process of searching for an executive vice president, someone to help us with operations," Draper said in his inaugural address. "That search will continue, and that will be a priority and at the very top of my agenda."

Reports were given on product sales of more than 11,000 copies of the first volume of "The New American Commentary" released in June, more than 16,000 copies of the "Holman Bible Dictionary" and more than one million copies of "The Baptist Hymnal." The second commentary volume is scheduled for a September release.

Harry Piland, director of the Sunday school division, reported Breakthrough Sunday school literature is being shipped to churches for the fall quarter and that plans to train Breakthrough consultants across the country are on schedule.

A financial report for the first nine months of the current fiscal year showed an increase of 4.7 percent above budget and 9.3 percent above the previous year.

Gains were shown in Baptist Book Stores, Holman and Broadman publishing and Convention Press. Church literature sales were reported at 4.4 percent above last year, but 0.8 percent below budget, with an estimated actual decline of 1.3 percent in unit sales.

Declines in sales were reported in the areas of Genevox music and Church Information Systems. Revenue from operation of conference centers, while 0.9 percent above last year, continued to be 1.9 percent below budget. The report said improvements in accounting and distribution operations will save the board more than \$900,000 annually.

Two motions from the floor were approved dealing with a study to downsize the trustee board and to place a plaque in the agency's lobby.

Ondra Black, pastor of Hope Baptist Church of Flanders, N.J., requested a study to downsize the trustee board from its current 93 members and to evaluate the practice of naming a high percentage of trustees from Tennessee to the trustee executive committee.

T.C. French Jr., pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, La., requested a plaque bearing a statement from the board's founder, J.M. Frost, be placed in the board's lobby. The plaque will quote an introduction by Frost from the book, "Baptist Why or Why Not," published in 1900, in which Frost affirmed the infallibility, inerrancy and sole authority of the Bible.

In other actions, trustees supported administrative recommendations by approving:

- Norm Finney, manager of the technical services section in the financial and technical services department, to assume the additional position of secretary of the corporation, replacing Joyce Byrd who resigned from that position effective Aug. 17.

- A conference center rate increase of 4.8 percent, effective with the 1992 summer conferences.

- Deletion of a quarterly periodical, "equipping youth," due to declining sales. The last issue will be July 1992.

- A change to quarterly, rather than monthly, publication of "Discipleship Training" magazine with an increased number of pages and a reduced price, effective January 1993.

- Substitution of an undated product, "StraightTalk for Teens (Bible Studies on Current Issues)" for a previously planned dated resource packet for weekday Bible study.

- Closing the Albuquerque, N.M., Baptist Book Store effective March 31, 1992, due to marginal performance and opening a new store in Lexington, Ky., July 1, 1992.

- The addition of Richard Melick Jr., chairman of the New Testament and Greek department at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., and Duane A. Garrett, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada, as consulting editors for "The New American Commentary."

Trustees also heard a preliminary report from trustee Billie Friel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Juliet, Tenn., who has chaired a committee on trustee and employee relationships. Friel said his committee of trustees had met with 60 employees to receive suggestions and comments.

Trustees approved his request to discuss with Draper "some real good recommendations from employees" and to postpone a full report to the next meeting, Feb. 3-5, 1992, in Nashville.

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Moscow missionaries witness
'three days that shook the world' By Erich Bridges

7-FMB

Baptist Press
8/22/91

MOSCOW (BP)--How does it feel to be in Moscow during what may be the most important days since the 1917 communist revolution?

"It feels kind of amazing to be right here, like you can't really comprehend everything that's going on," admitted Southern Baptist missionary Veda Rae Lozuk in an Aug. 22 telephone interview.

Lozuk and her husband, George, the son of Russian and Polish immigrants to the United States, were Southern Baptists' first missionaries assigned to the Soviet Union. The Lozuks of Fort Worth and Corpus Christi, Texas, arrived in Moscow earlier this year to work with Soviet Baptists, hardly realizing tanks would roll through the streets before summer's end in a failed attempt to overthrow Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his reforms.

"We asked a friend who was over at our house yesterday, 'Has there ever been a thing like this in the history of Russia?' And he said, 'No, nothing like this, where the people surrounded a leader they loved (Russian President Boris Yeltsin) and wouldn't let the army get to him,'" Lozuk related. "This is a tremendous thing."

The Lozuks joined Russian believers at a small Baptist church Aug. 19, the first full day of the coup attempt, to pray. No one knew exactly what would happen at that moment, but the future looked bleak. But the Christians praying in that small church weren't afraid.

"They just said, 'Let's worship God, let's continue,'" Lozuk reported. "They were resigned to what was happening and yet there was a determination -- a resignation and determination at the same time, if you can imagine that -- on the faces of the people, that they're going on."

Some Russian Baptists joined Russian Orthodox believers and tens of thousands of other citizens outside the Russian parliament building where Boris Yeltsin defied hard-line coup leaders and their tanks, she said.

"All of these 150,000 people just gathered around, and I think it was a tremendous testimony of wanting their self-determination," she said. "They had elected him, and they wanted him to serve."

When the tanks rolled out of Moscow and the people had won the day, "joy and thankfulness to the Lord" broke out among Russian Christians, she added. Her husband, who met with Soviet Baptist leader Gregori Komendant at the Moscow Baptist offices Aug. 22, said the Baptist leadership is "ecstatic" about the triumph of democracy and new opportunities for spreading the gospel. He said they held a prayer meeting of thanksgiving.

The Lozuks also are happy -- and relieved. A Russian friend told them one of the first priorities of the coup leaders would have been to "kick all the foreigners out of the country."

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The other Southern Baptist missionaries in the Soviet Union, Stephen and Marilyn Haines of Sterling and Leesburg, Va., who arrived in Kiev Aug. 1, also are safe, the Lozuks said. New missionaries Danny and Libby Panter of Pascagoula and Jackson, Miss., were still scheduled to arrive in Moscow Aug. 22. Fifteen other Southern Baptist aid workers in three Soviet republics also are safe; several were traveling abroad when the takeover attempt unfolded.

"This is the time to thank God," Mrs. Lozuk declared. "He definitely has his hand on all of this. I was reading the Bible today, and I was thinking ... he has plans for us here in the country and he has a plan for this whole great nation, really a combination of nations of people.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see a spiritual movement sweep over this country, because people are so hungry and so thirsty for the word of God and they've been denied the hearing of it for such a very long time," she said.

"It's exciting to be a part of it right now. We wouldn't trade places with anyone."

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Call for prayer and fasting
for Soviets urged by BWA

BWA
N-CO

Baptist Press
8/22/91

WASHINGTON (BP)--A call for prayer and fasting for the Soviet people has been issued by the leadership of the Baptist World Alliance following the unsuccessful military coup in the U.S.S.R. this week.

Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary and Knud Wumpelmann, president, issued the call today in light of the turmoil in the Soviet Union following the attempted coup and overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The BWA received a telegram Aug. 21 from Grigoria Komendant, president of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR, calling for the world's Baptists to pray for "our country and its people."

"The situation in our country is alarming ... Pray for the help and mercy of God for our long-suffering people," Komendant said. The telegram urged prayers that "the processes of liberalization and democratization begun by President Gorbachev will be continued."

The telegram was welcome news to the BWA leaders who had unsuccessfully tried to contact Soviet Baptist leaders when news of the coup attempt first broke.

BWA leaders asked for prayer and fasting on Sunday, Aug. 25 and Sept. 1 in churches of the 37 million member body representing Baptists in more than 200 countries.

In calling Baptist to prayer and fasting, BWA leaders rejoiced in the return to power of President Gorbachev.

The leaders asked prayer for: bloodshed and civil war be avoided, stability restored, "glasnost" and "perestroika" continue to grow, the Soviet economy to prosper, a "new sense of democracy in all areas of Soviet life" including human rights, free press and media, continued growth of religious freedom, boldness for believers to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and all believers worldwide will take seriously their responsibility for reconciliation, peace and love in the world.

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Baptist Men's cleanup, feeding
crews continue storm response By Steve Barber & Jim Burton

BHOB-11

Baptist Press
8/22/91

SWANSEA, Mass. (BP)--Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission disaster relief officials in Memphis, Tenn., have responded to a request from the American Red Cross and activated the Ohio and Kentucky Brotherhood Mobile Feeding Units in the wake of Hurricane Bob.

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The Kentucky feeding unit arrived today (Aug. 21) at the Bay Community Baptist Church in Swansea, Mass., in suburban Providence, R.I. The Swansea site will serve as the headquarters for eight satellite feeding units. Bob Simpkins, director of Brotherhood for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and on-site leader, said up to 35 volunteers are expected to work out of Swansea.

The feeding unit from the Ohio convention was expected to arrive later today at Hyannis, Mass., on Cape Cod. The 11-man, four-vehicle team hopes to be set up in time to provide an evening meal.

Additional crews from Kentucky will offer residents their services to remove trees and other debris left in the storm's path. More volunteer cleanup crews from Virginia, Maryland, Indiana and South Carolina are on standby. Officials expect crews to be needed though next week.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency requested the cleanup crews.

The American Red Cross first assessed the damage from Hurricane Bob as "moderate," although today indications were it was more widespread than first thought. The worst damage confirmed thus far was on Block Island in the Long Island Sound south of Rhode Island, where winds approached 115 miles per hour.

"Hurricane Bob was a good test of our readiness," said Douglas Beggs, Brotherhood Commission adult division director. "Within two hours of the Greater Boston Association putting us on alert, we had men committed and units ready to roll."

"Southern Baptist disaster relief is becoming well known even in non-Southern Baptist areas," said Jack Parrott, associate executive director of the Boston association. "We knew we could count on the Brotherhood Commission if we called for help."

Parrott and John Kuespret, a New England pastor with construction background, are continuing damage assessment. Kuespret is the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board construction coordinator for the Baptist Convention of New England.

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Churches in hurricane's path
weather storm with little damage

By Sarah Zimmerman

A-HMB

Baptist Press
8/22/91

ATLANTA (BP)--As Hurricane Bob cut its path across New England, Southern Baptist church buildings in the area weathered the storm with little structural damage.

"None of our church buildings were damaged," said Jack Parrot, associate director of the Greater Boston Baptist Association. "We have two congregations and one Bible study on the South Shore and one congregation and one Bible study on Cape Cod."

Lack of electricity is the biggest problem on Cape Cod, where many residents use electric-powered water wells, Parrot said.

David Leary, director of missions for Long Island (N.Y.) Baptist Association, said the 10 churches in his association also received no structural damage. He cited fallen trees, flooding and no electricity as the major problems caused by the storm.

"People are using grills and camping equipment to prepare meals. If anything, it's made us a little more neighborly," Leary said.

The hurricane's winds were clocked at 105 mph near Hanover. But the only interruption in church life was changing one committee meeting, said Neal Davidson, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Hanover, Mass.

Smith Hill Baptist Ministries, a mission center in Providence, Conn., canceled one program because the lack of electricity, but the building received no structural damage.

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"Our people are all OK. Nobody is hurt or homeless. Everything considered, we came through it pretty well," said Kip Brady-Mobley, director of the Smith Hill Ministries and pastor of a 14-member church that meets in the same building.

Parrot predicts volunteers will be needed to help remove trees as clean-up measures continue. He said fallen trees have been removed from roads, but trees still clutter yards.

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Baptist volunteers get 'green light'
to travel to Soviet Union Sept. 2 By Susan Todd Doyle

WMU-7

Baptist Press
8/22/91

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Word came Aug. 21 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to a team of young adult volunteers that their Sept. 2-10 trip to the Soviet Union has been confirmed.

Team members waited anxiously from the beginning of the attempted coup to oust Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to know whether their trip would happen as planned.

The team has been preparing for months to distribute 70,000 Russian language New Testaments in three cities in the Soviet Union, as well as to conduct a variety of other ministries and worship services in each city at the invitation of Soviet Baptists.

"We see this as an opportune time (for the trip) and not inopportune," said Tom Warrington, associate area director for Europe for the Foreign Mission Board. Warrington was one of the FMB staff members involved in making the final decision for the group.

"We have been in touch with our missionaries in Moscow and foresee no problems," he said. "People there have freedom to move about within the city. We see no danger at this point."

The group planning to depart for the Soviet Union Sept. 2 includes about 30 young adult volunteers enlisted by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, based in Birmingham, and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, based in Memphis, Tenn. WMU and Brotherhood are the missions arms of the Southern Baptist Convention, supporting mission education, mission support, and mission action and personal witnessing efforts in Southern Baptist churches.

The trip has been planned to coincide with the Moscow International Book Fair. Team members will distribute New Testaments at the fair as well as through street evangelism efforts in Moscow and in Yalta and Frunze (recently renamed Bishkek). Yalta is a small resort town on the Black Sea in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Frunze is a major city in the Kirghizia S.S.R. and shares a border with China.

The invitation to participate in the book fair and in the street evangelism efforts came from Soviet Christians.

"The Russians are looking forward to the team's arrival and say 'Come on!'" Warrington said.

Excitement among team members ran high as the news came about the final decision to go.

"We have prayed that we would have the opportunity to go and work with our Soviet Christian brothers and sisters," said Andrea Mullins, Baptist Women specialist for WMU and one of the trip's tour directors. "It's an answer to prayer that the doors remain open for us to go.

"We are excited about the possibilities of working with the Soviets and distributing Bibles to people who have never had one."

The Bible distribution project is part of a larger project being sponsored by Southern Baptists and the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

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Other entities supporting the effort include the International Bible Society, which is matching donations from individuals to purchase the Bibles for distribution, and the Holman Bible Publishers Division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The 70,000 Bibles already have been shipped to the Soviet Union. Each volunteer in the group helped pay the cost of the shipping in the total cost of the trip.

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Texas Baptists still planning
exploratory trip to Estonia

By Ken Camp

n-Texas

Baptist Press
8/22/91

DALLAS (BP)--In spite of a failed coup in the U.S.S.R. and resultant upheaval in the Baltic republics, a Texas Baptist Partnership Missions research team still plans to visit Estonia next month.

A 3-member Baptist General Convention of Texas fact-finding team will travel to the Baltic republic Sept. 12-15 to explore a possible partnership with the Baptist Union of Estonia before proceeding to Romania to discuss a partnership with Baptist leaders there.

Ed Schmeltekopf, BGCT associate executive director; Bill Gray, coordinator of Partnership Missions; and Joy Fenner, Texas Woman's Missionary Union executive director-treasurer; will be joined by three Foreign Mission Board representatives for the exploratory trip.

Although visas already had been granted for the Southern Baptists, Gray said on Aug. 22 the Foreign Mission Board asked him to wait until Aug. 26 "to cut the tickets so they'll have time to make sure everything there is OK."

Travel plans were made uncertain when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was ousted by Communist hard-liners and the commander of the Soviet Baltic Military District, Lt. Gen. Fyodor Kuzmin, declared himself de facto ruler of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

On Aug. 20, while more than 100 light armored vehicles rolled into the Estonian capital of Tallinn and Soviet warships blockaded the city's main harbor, the Estonian Parliament met in a barricaded government building, voting to declare the republic's independence. By the following evening, after the coup collapsed, Soviet tanks had withdrawn from the capital city.

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Alaska pastor honored for
service to small churches

By Chip Alford

SSB-F

Baptist Press
8/22/91

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Isolation has been part of Earl Midkiff's life for more than 20 years, but he isn't complaining.

The 60-year-old Texas native recently completed his second decade as pastor of First Baptist Church of Petersburg, Alaska. The church of fewer than 100 members is located on a remote island with no road connections to the outside world. So every trip away from home, even to a meeting of the "local" Baptist association, requires an airplane or boat ride.

"If it doesn't happen here, we don't really care about it at all," Midkiff said, only half-kidding, about his hometown of 3,000 people. "But I really wouldn't want to be anywhere else. It's a very, very accepting town, and my heart has always been with small churches."

Midkiff was honored for that devotion Aug. 4 at Bible-Preaching-Administration Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. He was recognized as the Southern Baptist Convention's Small Church Pastor of the Year for the West. The award was presented by Joe Stacker, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department.

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The Small Church Pastor of the Year Award for the East was presented to Doug Benningfield, pastor of Hickory Valley Baptist Church in Sparta, Tenn., during the Bible-Preaching-Administration Conference held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center in July.

Midkiff, who received a standing ovation at Glorieta, said he was "overwhelmed" by his selection. "I'd like to thank the staff of the church administration department for recognizing small churches and for making leadership training meaningful for all of the churches (in the convention)," he said.

A graduate of East Texas Baptist University and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Midkiff said he has never desired to be pastor of a large church. After completing seminary in 1958, he and his wife, Shannon, were involved in mission work with the French-Indians in southern Louisiana. He pastored a Baptist mission and she taught at the local school.

"It was so rewarding," Midkiff recalled, "but it was also very, very sad. They were really a race without a place at that time."

The Midkiffs made the 5,000-mile move to Alaska in 1966. A friend had recommended him to First Baptist Church of Soldotna, and the church called him without even meeting him in person.

"I never had any doubts," Midkiff said of his move north. "I knew I had made the right decision the moment I got here."

After four-and-one-half years at Soldotna, Midkiff was called to his current pastorate in Petersburg. The 20-member congregation had constituted as a church only a few weeks before he arrived. In those early years the church met in "borrowed space," -- the local Episcopal church. Eventually they bought property and built their own church plant.

Though he had to take a plane to attend meetings, Midkiff served six terms as moderator of the Tongass Baptist Association and preached the annual sermon three times.

He also has led his church to an active involvement in missions. For 15 years, Midkiff made weekly or bi-weekly trips to four nearby logging camps to conduct services, and his church has sponsored missions in Coffman Cove and Thorne Bay. The church also helps support two bivocational pastors living on Prince of Wales Island who serve the above-mentioned missions and other "preaching points" in the area.

As pastor of the only Baptist church in Petersburg, Midkiff said he has learned to build relationships with pastors from other denominations. Still, he said he has worked to maintain his ties with the SBC.

"Southern Baptists have a tremendous program," he said. "They have really tried to reach out to those of us who are isolated. I appreciate what (the convention) has done to help me stay in the field."

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

Soviet takeover collapse
could boost religious freedom

By Erich Bridges

N-FMB

Baptist Press
8/22/91

MOSCOW (BP)--The failure of communist hard-liners to destroy the Soviet Union's move toward democracy will give religious freedom there another major boost, observers believe.

Soviet Baptist leaders in Moscow were "ecstatic" about the collapse of the coup Aug. 22, according to Southern Baptist missionary George Lozuk, who participated in an impromptu prayer meeting at Moscow Baptist offices that day.

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As the takeover attempt was crumbling a day earlier, Soviet Baptists issued a statement to world Baptists asking for prayer and calling for continued "liberalization and democratization" in the country. They also asked for prayers that they could avoid bloodshed and civil war, return to stability, continue in growth of religious freedom and show boldness to preach the gospel.

Russian Orthodox leaders were demanding, meanwhile, that the new leaders allow Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to address the nation. Aleksy II, Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, questioned the legitimacy of the coup leaders and called on Soviet soldiers to "restrain themselves" as they confronted citizens in Moscow.

"God is with you!" declared dissident priest Gleb Yakunin, now a Russian Parliament member, to citizens protecting the parliament building.

When the coup failed, believers joined other citizens in celebration. "I just saw on the TV a great gathering at Red Square with (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin," reported Southern Baptist missionary Veda Rae Lozuk Aug. 22 from Moscow. "The Russian Orthodox leader was there, and he was praising God and telling the people it was God's will that Russia was going to be free."

One thing is sure, Soviet Baptists believe: the churches will never return to the old days of repression.

"The church leaders have told us in times past that it's gone so far, the freedom they've given the church, that (the communists) can never take that away again," Lozuk said. "There is the freedom to organize churches. There is the freedom to worship. Young people are in the churches now. I don't know what else the Lord might have in store for us."

The rule of law in the Soviet Union has gained profound strength with the coup's collapse, and the law now guarantees religious freedom. The transfer of power from the Soviet central government to the 15 republics also will accelerate in the wake of the failed coup. That trend could aid religious believers as well, according to Isam Ballenger, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

"If the republics come to have authority over church relations, then there could be several developments, some of them good and some of them bad," Ballenger said. "Certainly in the more western republics this could be a good development -- freedom in the Baltic states and the Ukraine. It could be disadvantageous for (Christians) in the Islamic republics. There's a good bit of tension in some of these republics against the minority Russians (who are associated with Russian Orthodox Christianity by Muslims).

Further, with more freedom and the potential collapse of the Communist Party, Christianity will have new competitors in the Soviet marketplace of ideas: Islam, other religions and cults, the appeal of Western materialism.

"I don't think it's going to be completely smooth sailing ahead for us," Ballenger said. "It never has been for the church as far as that goes. So where communism will decline in influence and perhaps even be removed completely, there will be other barriers and hurdles to overcome. We've got a lot of work to do ahead of us. But it's an exciting time. The developments are extraordinary."

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'Musicians on Mission'
have power for victory

By Charles Willis

F-SSB
Baptist Press
8/22/91

HONOLULU (BP)--Christian musicians seeking to return power to "godly things" have that ability through their musical skills, a Southern Baptist professor told mainland U.S. and Hawaii Baptists during the 15th and final Musicians on Mission workshop, Aug. 9-11.

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William L. Hendricks, professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., spoke to 150 workshop registrants at Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu.

Included in the workshop were 69 mainland U.S. Southern Baptists who volunteered to attend the workshop at their own expense and to work afterward in Hawaii Baptist churches requesting musical training.

"The demonic have torn the power from godly things," Hendricks said. "The world sings the songs of lust and greed and hate. There is a god-shaped vacuum in the heart of every soul, and the world tries to fill it with lust, money and alcohol that tourists bring to this place."

Jim L. Harvey, director of the church development division of the Hawaii Baptist Convention, agreed the music for which the islands are famous is not Christian music. The involvement of volunteers to strengthen church music programs in Hawaii provided "enhancement of our worship and personal inspirational help.

"We're very concerned about training more people in the congregation in using the hymnal in singing and personal devotional life," Harvey continued. "We want to help the churches become more attractive to outsiders with better worship services and better music."

The efforts of 30 individuals and two singing groups through Musicians on Mission has been "helpful and very intense for us," Harvey said. "What we hope is that we can take what we have learned and extend it over several years in music training and music leadership.

"We like the mix of participation with people from the mainland, rather than their doing it all for us. This will be remembered forever. We've known we have the best (Southern Baptist) materials and leadership. It just helps us to meet some of them personally."

The 150 workshop participants came from 10 mainland states and the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii.

The workshop and mission project concluded a 6-year project sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department. Since the first workshop and volunteer effort in 1985, 1,400 volunteers have served in 620 churches in California, Kansas, Nebraska, Maryland, Indiana, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Ohio, Oregon, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Hawaii.

Ted Evans of Canton, N.C., a Mission Service Corps volunteer, said he believes Southern Baptists are "interested in helping each other if they are given a chance and this emphasis has given them that chance."

Evans, who participated in 14 of the 15 music missions events, said he learned through the experience "just to be available. The opportunities are there. No matter how well prepared I felt, I faced situations I knew nothing about."

Evans has returned to three churches in which he did mission work to conduct music revivals and conduct further training.

Peggy Martin a technical editor and member of Central Baptist Church of Bearden in Knoxville, Tenn., said the six events in which she participated provided her opportunities to introduce children to Jesus and "convinced me of the urgency to witness."

She said not only did she have the opportunity to win children to Christ during her volunteer experiences, but also family members of children eventually accepted the Lord.

In Hawaii, volunteers led choir clinics, provided sound equipment advice and helped local leaders with congregational singing needs. They also offered keyboard help, instrumental training, worship planning guidance and solo and ensemble improvements.

Classes provided in the workshop dealt with staff relationships and small-church needs, as well as practical sessions in keyboard, handbell, instrumental, vocal, graded choir, worship planning and music resource concerns.

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

Mission trip key
to grief recovery

By Charles Willis

F-SSB

Baptist Press
8/22/91

HONOLULU (BP)--The decision to travel from Kearney, Mo., to engage in music missions in Honolulu was for Terri Guillott a key to beginning her recovery from grief.

Her participation in the Musicians on Mission workshop and volunteer mission project was originally to have been made with her husband, Paul. But Sept. 13, 1990, the 34-year-old minister of music and education at First Baptist Church of Kearney, Mo., was killed in a freak automobile accident.

A 13-year-old boy in a stolen car crashed into the rear of Paul Guillott's car, which was stopped last in line in a roadblock. Police were chasing the youth at speeds exceeding 90 miles an hour, Terri Guillott recalled, when the youth's car hit her husband's, killing him instantly. While Terri usually rode to work with her husband, he was alone in the car the day he was killed.

Paul Guillott had just completed studies at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City and had moved from part-time to full-time status with the Kearney church. Before moving to Missouri to attend seminary, Paul Guillot was a bivocational minister of music in Dequincy, La., and Manvel, Texas.

"We were doing what God wanted us to do," Terri Guillott reasoned following her husband's death. "I just didn't understand why God let this happen."

But dealing with grief had to wait in line behind moving out of church-owned housing and meeting the needs of her three children, Karen, 14, Kelly, 12, and Christopher, 2.

In January, Terri Guillott contacted the Hawaii Baptist Convention to say she would not be coming to the August music workshop.

"If you change your mind, let us know," was essentially what I was told," Guillott said during a week of mission service in the Honolulu area. "At least that's how God helped me to hear it. It wasn't what was said so much as what wasn't said. That really made me begin to think."

A few weeks later, Guillott was trapped in traffic behind a minor accident caused by a snowstorm. As she waited in traffic, she began to relive the accident "the way I thought it had happened. My emotions just went wild. I was completely out of control. I remember being there (in traffic), and I remember getting home. I have no idea how I got home."

Later that night she was hospitalized with chest pains, and the same doctor who had attended to her husband's body was assigned to her.

"I don't believe in coincidence," Guillott declared. "God put me with that doctor for him to tell me I needed to get a grip on myself."

That night as she lay in her hospital bed, Guillott said she began to realize the bitterness she felt.

"I didn't have these children by myself, but I was left to raise them by myself. I didn't think this was fair. I didn't know what to do with my life. I had been a minister's wife, and now that was over. I felt there was nothing more for me to do."

Guillott said she believes she had denied her bitterness thinking Christians "shouldn't feel that way."

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A few days later, still working through her feelings, Guillott thought about the workshop when the Baptist Women's president at the church asked if she planned to go on the Hawaii mission trip.

"I don't think I will," Guillott recalled saying. But the following week, she called the Hawaii Baptist Convention to say she would come after all.

"I told them I didn't have formal music training, that I had sung with my husband and that I didn't know what I could do, but that I would come."

The answer she got was "that's all we need to know."

Guillott said she and her daughter Karen have "worked ever since we got off the plane. I have received many blessings, and I am so very, very grateful to be here."

As she and Karen sang for worship services and as she led classes in women's ensemble work, Guillott found God does have work for her to do.

"I believe the same God who allows things to happen in our lives is molding and shaping us for work he wants done," she reflected. "He can do anything. When we allow him to use us, he will."

Guillott said her goal now is to earn an associate degree in church music from Midwestern Seminary.

The "Musicians on Mission" workshop and volunteer mission project was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department.

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

Church revives
dormant library

By Charles Willis

F-SSB

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HONOLULU (BP)--Church libraries die slowly; the cause of death may be inactivity accompanied by gathering dust and materials which long ago ceased to be relevant or helpful.

The members of Waialae Baptist Church in Honolulu know firsthand training, determination and a lot of hard work can revive an almost-dead library to renewed service.

The library of Waialae Church had ceased to become a place at all; it consisted of resources packed away in boxes. Attempts to reshelve and restore order had failed. The most recent attempt appeared to be doomed when the library director was transferred to the Mainland. But when Helen Taura was elected library director in March 1990, she determined the church library would survive.

Taura had retired a few months before from a career with Hawaii's department of employment, and she had the time and interest to do the job. In fact, her enthusiasm caused 20 other people to agree to work alongside her.

"I was desperate to get someone to train us," she recalled recently. She contacted Stanley Togikawa, a staff member of the Hawaii Baptist Convention whose responsibilities include training for library personnel, who arranged a training session. More than 30 people, including one librarian from the island of Maui, attended 10 hours of studies in administration, promotion, resource selection, processing, cataloging and ministering through a church media library.

James Rose, a consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church media library department, recalled the "interest and responsiveness" of the participants in the November 1990 training he led.

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Taura was not about to let the enthusiasm subside. In a flurry of activity that has not yet stopped, Taura led in forming a library committee which now numbers 25. Church members representing age groups and life situations were asked to recommend lists of desired books. She recruited technical processing workers and held an orientation session using a Sunday School Board-produced videotape.

Then she organized a work day for "major cleaning and dusting" of the library's quarters, now shared with a Sunday school class.

After all the old furniture had been removed and the books had been straightened, Taura arranged for books on consignment to be available for a book fair.

Church members purchased volumes as memorials or in honor of family and friends. In one day, almost \$1,500 in books was donated, with another \$500 in donations given in the days that followed.

In less than a month, Taura and her staff processed almost 300 books and remodeled and redecorated the library for a "grand opening."

Jack Elliott, pastor of Waiialae Baptist Church, has supported Taura's efforts and is the library's best customer.

"I have a lot of books of my own," he said, "but when I am preparing messages and Bible studies I always need more. I come here regularly to see what I can find among the commentaries and reference books."

Brenda Hicks, a church member, agrees the library makes studying on her own more convenient. As development director for the Hawaii Baptist Academy, Hicks said she lacks the time to devote to shopping for books. "Every week I know I can go by the library for another book."

When members were invited to purchase books for the revitalized library, Hicks and her family were among those to contribute. She recalls with amusement her 11-year-old son, Zack, selected a book "on how to live with your parents" for his contribution. More impressive, she believes, is Zack subsequently checked out and read the book.

The ambitious Taura is far from finished leading her fellow church members to completion of a dream.

"I want our library to become a media library by adding periodicals, audio and video equipment, cassettes and tapes," she declared.

And amid plans for record keeping, promoting and training church leaders in the proper use of media in teaching and training, Taura is a library director driven by ministry.

"I've purchased a lot of family type books so that families can be helped," she reflected. "The right book can almost serve as a personal counselor."

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