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Dobson targets Madonna book,  
urges boycott of Time, printer

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press  
10/28/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Incensed over Madonna's controversial \$49.95 "Sex" coffee-table book, Morality in Media and author-broadcaster James Dobson have called for a boycott of Time Warner Inc.

Warner Books, a subsidiary of New York City-based Time Warner, is the book's publisher. More than 800,000 copies of the book -- in six languages -- were placed on the market Oct. 21.

Dobson also called for a boycott of the book's printer, R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company of Chicago. Donnelley, the world's largest printing company, has printed numerous books for Dobson's Focus on the Family ministry in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Donnelley also was the printer of 40,000-plus copies of this year's Southern Baptist Convention Annual and 12,000-plus copies of the SBC Book of Reports, both published by the Nashville-based SBC Executive Committee.

In addition, Donnelley does extensive business with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, including Bible printing and other projects, and with numerous other national publishers of religious materials.

Dobson said the Madonna book "is, without question, the most outrageous single event that has occurred in my lifetime with reference to teen-agers especially."

The book "should be a major concern to every parent in this country," Dobson said during his Oct. 27 national radio broadcast. "She's out to change the moral perspective, the moral view of an entire generation."

The Madonna book is "not just airbrushed nudity," Dobson said. "It's not just soft-core pornography. ... It's filled with perversions of the most explicit type" -- "full frontal nudity cast in homosexual settings ... sadomasochistic behavior with whips, knives and chains ... and clearly implied bestiality and pedophilia" (sexual perversion with children).

"I am angry about those who are doing this to the younger generation," Dobson said, noting the book will be "seen by literally millions of kids" and will stir them to "to do things that ultimately will destroy the family."

"This is not just some porno queen," Dobson said, noting millions of youth "imitate Madonna -- she has such influence with them."

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Of Donnelley, the printer, Dobson said, "We're not going to do business with them any more." Focus on the Family has relied on Donnelley for virtually all its major printing needs, he said. "But when the present agreements are over, we're through."

Dobson urged other Christian organizations to reconsider their ties to Donnelley.

Morris H. Chapman, president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, told Baptist Press, "I am shocked that Donnelley chose to print a book which so blatantly disregards the moral and spiritual welfare of the American people."

Chapman added, "This past year, the Executive Committee for the first time contracted with Donnelley to print the SBC Annual and Book of Reports. These contracts are made on an annual basis and no contract has been negotiated for 1993."

James T. Draper Jr., president of the Sunday School Board, issued a statement, noting: "We are surprised and outraged that two of our suppliers, R.R. Donnelley and Rand McNally (which owns a bindery) were involved in the publication of the pornographic book, 'Sex,' by Madonna.

"We have been in contact with representatives from both of these companies concerning this matter. Rand McNally sent us a letter stating that they regret their involvement with this book and would not be involved in such projects in the future.

"We have received no such written communication from R.R. Donnelley.

"We are in continuing communication with both of these companies. We will be in contact with other Christian publishers as we contemplate future involvement with these companies. I can say the BSSB stands solidly and forcefully for biblical and family values. Our decision about future involvement with these companies will be consistent with our commitment to these Christian ideals."

Donnelley's vice president for corporate relations, James M. Ratcliffe, issued a statement, noting:

"We are sensitive to the fact that from time to time people may be offended by the content of materials we print. And, we strive to avoid work that is broadly and blatantly offensive. But we are not -- and do not seek to be -- a censor.

"We cannot reject work simply because it may be controversial to some. Rather, we seek relationships with publishers whose reputation and standards of quality and content are consistent with the values and standards of our company and our people.

"We know some may not agree with our decision in this case. However, we hope they will respect our decision and what it says about our commitment to our customers and their rights and role as publishers."

Ratcliffe's statement acknowledged Donnelley's earlier rejection of a controversial book, "Gay Ideas," and "our refusal to print some publications." He then stated, "We have, on rare occasions, refused to print publications that we determined were broadly and blatantly offensive."

Donnelley does "a very substantial amount of business" with religious publishers, Ratcliffe acknowledged to Baptist Press. Donnelley has 25 "sizeable" printing plants with some 29,000 employees in the United States and "a fair number (of printing plants) overseas," he said.

Dobson, in his call for a Time Warner boycott, urged immediate action, noting Time Warner has a \$60 million contract with Madonna.

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The "Sex" book is "just the first product. How can it get more wicked?" Dobson asked. "But they (Time Warner) have got \$60 million out there and they're going to get it back someday."

If Time Warner fares well with its Madonna book, Dobson warned, other companies are going to take "a good hard look ... and their mouths are going to water to get in on it."

Readers of Sports Illustrated, a Time Warner subsidiary, should cancel their subscriptions, Dobson said as an example of a boycott action. They should tear in half the magazine cover with their mailing label and mail it to the company stating their protest of Time Warner's promotion of the Madonna book.

Among other Time Warner businesses Dobson is urging be boycotted are Time, Life, Money, Fortune, Parenting, Southern Living and Entertainment Weekly magazines, American Family Publishers, Six Flags theme parks, Home Box Office (HBO), Cinemax and Warner Bros. and Atlantic recording labels.

The Madonna book is part of "a civil war of values," Dobson said. It's "a tidal wave of evil -- that's what we're faced with."

"Madonna is not the enemy," Dobson said. "Satan is the enemy. She is being exploited by the enemy. We need to pray for her that the truth will become evident to her. I don't hate Madonna. I don't hate Time Warner. We need to pray for them, but we also need to let our opinions be heard."

Morality in Media's president, Robert Peters, in calling for a Time Warner boycott Oct. 21, charged the Madonna book is "absolute sleaze" that will encourage sexual perversions among impressionable young people and sexual violence against women.

"Time Warner has gone too far!" Peters charged. "A responsible corporation should not be acting to introduce sick, violent pornography into mainstream America at a time when sexual violence has become epidemic." Time Warner is guilty of "appalling corporate greed and total indifference to the youth of this nation, to community standards and to the very moral viability of this nation," the president of the New York City-based media watchdog said.

Police groups across the country called for a Time Warner boycott in July when the company defended its marketing of rapper Ice-T's "Body Count" album including the song, "Cop Killer," Peters reminded.

And the American Family Association, based in Tupelo, Miss., called for a boycott of Time Warner as the third-leading sponsor of sex, violence and profanity on television, Peters noted.

Lamar Cooper Sr., director of denominational relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, issued a statement commending Morality in Media, Dobson and American Family Association for their boycott calls of Time Warner.

"There is no way one could claim any redeeming social value for a book that lauds sexual perversion, bestiality, homosexuality, lesbianism and sadomasochism," Cooper said.

"Under federal law," he continued, "material is obscene when it lacks artistic, political or scientific value and appeals only to a prurient interest. This kind of material is not protected by First Amendment rights which guarantees free speech.

"No one wants censorship or any inhibition of free speech," Cooper said. "For that right to survive, free speech must be used in a responsible manner. Time Warner's decision to publish and market this kind fifth is anything but responsible.

"The \$50 price tag on this obscenity leads one to conclude that Time Warner and Madonna are out to make a fast buck. The book costs less than \$8 per copy to produce," Cooper said.

Ouachita's Paul Root 'bit sheepish'  
as Bill Clinton's favorite teacher      By Mark Kelly

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--It never occurred to Paul Root he might be teaching a future president of the United States. Or even a governor of Arkansas.

His 18 world history students at Hot Springs (Ark.) High School were a bright bunch, but the 28-year-old Root saw in them tomorrow's community leaders and church deacons. It never occurred to him sophomore Bill Clinton might turn out to be a five-term governor of the state and the Democratic Party's nominee for president.

"Hey, at that time, I thought I was going to be governor," confessed Root, who now is chairman of the department of education at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. "For someone to come out of Hot Springs to eventually become president was just beyond my thinking."

In the 15-year-old Clinton, Root saw a bright, fun-loving, straight-A student "who always did his homework, and it was never a burden to him." What he couldn't see was a young man who was absorbing the lessons of world history and coming to see his small state's place in the big picture of world affairs.

Clinton, the presidential candidate, recently named Root as one of his best teachers. Root was embarrassed at the national media attention that focused briefly on him.

"Some of the best teachers I have ever known taught at Hot Springs then," Root said. "Bill Clinton had them all. I felt a bit sheepish about being named his best teacher from those days."

Root, 60, contends his own work on the governor's staff from 1983-87 influenced Clinton's recollection of those high school days. Root worked alongside the governor during a very difficult period, when Clinton was fighting to reform the state's antiquated and ineffective school system.

Root was the governor's liaison with church groups, many of whom were concerned that new licensing requirements for day-care centers would intrude on their religious freedom. He also helped hammer out a teacher testing program and controversial school standards that forced 365 school districts to improve their services or face consolidation.

The difference between Clinton and other Arkansas politicians, Root said, was that the governor did more than just talk about the state's problems on the campaign trail. Once elected, he outlined solutions to those problems and went to work to change things.

"We worked together through those painful changes, and every day we talked about the same ideas that we talked about in world history class," Root said. "He was showing people where Arkansas fit into the world situation.

"I used him as proof that I was right all along in saying that you need to learn these principles in world history. He has proven that the ideas we discussed actually work. He made them work for Arkansas."

If Clinton inherited his vision of the world from Root's world history class, Root received his own world view from another. His own most memorable instructor was Lena Wilkerson, who taught him world history at Bald Knob High School in the late 1940s. Now in retirement at nearby Russell, Wilkerson instilled in Root his first vision of the larger world and propelled him toward a history teaching career.

Ouachita Baptist University President Ben Elrod finds no difficulty in understanding why someone would pick Root as a favorite teacher.

"For one thing, Paul's got a tremendous sense of humor," Elrod explained. "He sees a lot of humor in life that the rest of us miss.

"He has a very bright outlook on life," added Elrod, who has worked with Root almost 30 years. "I can readily see why a young high school Bill Clinton would be attracted to him. A bright student would be challenged by Paul."

Elrod credits Root with successfully shepherding the school's teacher education program through a grueling accreditation process that Root calls his "three-year emergency." Root also has worked at building up the department's teaching lab so the program's 200 students don't have to go off campus to find the materials and ideas they need.

A graduate of Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway (now University of Central Arkansas), Root earned a doctorate in education at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He was chairman of the OBU history department from 1964-68 and chairman of the education and psychology departments at Oakland City College in Indiana, 1969-72.

He returned to OBU in 1978 to work in a program that helped schools deal with desegregation problems. After serving on Clinton's staff, Root returned again to Ouachita in 1989 to direct the university's teacher education program.

Although he was raised a Missionary Baptist, Root became a Southern Baptist during his college years, albeit inadvertently.

On his first Sunday as a freshman music student at Arkansas College in Batesville, Root boarded a bus bound for area churches. When the bus ground to a halt in front of a Baptist church, Root automatically disembarked.

"My parents were farmers, and we went to the Baptist church in town. It was the only one," he recalled. "I didn't know there were other kinds of Baptists.

"I got off the bus and went in and joined Batesville First Baptist Church. I discovered later I had changed denominations. But I've been awfully pleased with that accident up to this point."

Root maintains his interest in music, which began with gospel quartet singing at age 14. Over the last 25 years, he has served churches as an interim music minister, returning to many of them more than once.

"I've had good experiences everywhere I've been," Root said. "I'm better at being nice to folks than I am at music. But an awful lot of churches need that more than they do an accomplished musician."

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Kelly is a free-lance writer in Little Rock and former associate editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine. (BP) photo available upon request from Ouachita's public relations department, 501-245-5206.

Betty Law retiring early from FMB;  
cites disagreement with direction By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press  
10/24/92

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Betty Law has announced she will retire early as Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president for the Americas, citing disagreement with the approach taken by board trustees.

A veteran of 40 years in Southern Baptist home and foreign missions, Law is the board's highest-ranking female staff member and is the second vice president to take early retirement because of disagreement with trustees. Isam Ballenger, then vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, announced early retirement last January.

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In a letter dated Oct. 22 to retiring board President R. Keith Parks, Law said she will retire next Jan. 15 after 29 years with the board, the final three as the top administrator for mission work in Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada. She sent copies of the letter to some 1,350 missionaries in the region and to 17 trustees on the board's Americas committee.

Law, who turns 64 Nov. 8, told Parks she could no longer serve with integrity as vice president for the Americas because she can no longer "support and defend the actions, directions and views of the trustees or fairly interpret" them to missionaries and Southern Baptists.

She expressed appreciation for Southern Baptists, her opportunities for service and her relationships with missionaries, overseas Baptists, board staff and trustees on the Americas committee.

But her letter cited changes at the board which she said influenced her decision to retire earlier than she originally planned.

"In the past, the Foreign Mission Board has focused on the career missionary and partnership with (Baptists) in the countries," she wrote. "We have gone to minister and to serve others as requested or to open new areas of work. This philosophy of work has been effective and given unusual strength, stability and growth worldwide.

"Now this focus is shifting to meeting the needs of our own constituency rather than the need as indicated from the field. Until recently we have worked toward balance. This is changing and will move us away from our primary purpose and the type of mission work to which I have committed my life."

Law's letter also cited "a growing tendency toward control and conformity" at the Foreign Mission Board. "In my service with the Foreign Mission Board, I have worked with Baptists in other countries who have a deep faith. They do not have to express their faith in the same way as I do as a Southern Baptist, or be Southern Baptists, for me to serve with them, learn from them and be inspired and challenged by them.

"In your administration," she told Parks, "there has been trust and confidence in missionaries and staff. You have allowed us the freedom to disagree and to work toward change without penalty. Now I see a move toward expecting allegiance and compliance without room for differences of opinion. In recent months, for the first time in my experience with the Foreign Mission Board, there has been suspicion and distrust of missionaries and staff."

Omar Pachecano of El Paso, Texas, trustee chairman of the Americas committee, could not be reached by Baptist Press for comment, but he earlier told Associated Baptist Press he does not agree with Law's perception that trustees are attempting to impose greater control and conformity.

Pachecano said he has never seen trustees "as people who micromanage" or who are involved in "arm-twisting." He expressed regret over Law's decision and respect for her leadership.

"There are always two sides to every statement," trustee chairman John Jackson of California told Baptist Press. "Some staff may feel the way Betty does, and I give them the benefit that they may believe that. But I don't feel her points accurately reflect the position of trustees."

Law declined to comment further on her decision to retire early, noting "the letter speaks for itself." However, she said, "In the time I have left, I will devote myself wholeheartedly and positively to my work for the good of the missionaries and missions and to lead into the smoothest possible transition."

She said she has made no decision about future plans.

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Parks, who retires Oct. 31, paid tribute to Law as a missionary and leader of "spiritual depth, intellectual insight and unstinting effort."

"She has been a vice president of outstanding accomplishment in developing global strategy and relationships with missionaries, staff and overseas Baptists," Parks said. "It's a great loss to the board and the mission cause for her to retire at this point, but I understand and honor her decision."

Parks cited her in particular for work in organizing the recent Consultation on Global Evangelization in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during which key leaders from the region caught a vision of participation in missions beyond their own language and culture.

The second woman to serve as a board vice president and the first to administer one of its geographical regions, Law's mission career includes three years in associational missions in Texas, eight years in Cuba as a home missionary, 18 years as a missionary in Spain and 11 years on the Foreign Mission Board staff.

She resigned as a missionary in 1980 after the death of her husband, Thomas L. Law Jr., but returned to the Foreign Mission Board in 1981. She was associate area director for western South America, 1981-87, and then was associate area director for Spanish South America until she was elected vice president for the Americas in 1990.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Law holds bachelor of arts, bachelor of science and master of arts degrees from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. She also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

She has four grown sons. The oldest, Thomas L. Law III, and his wife, Linda, are missionaries to Paraguay.

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(BP) photo (mugshot) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Homeless church provides  
shelter for family of five

By Sarah Zimmerman

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10/28/92

LENEXA, Kan. (BP)--A year ago the family of five lived in a house so dilapidated that rats entered through holes in the furnace. Within 10 months, a church's investment in their lives resulted in two professions of faith and dramatic changes.

Forest Park Baptist Church in Lenexa, Kan., is a "homeless provider" through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The church leases a HUD home for \$1 a year and pays property taxes and utilities while subleasing it to a homeless family.

Though homeless itself -- the church meets in a school -- Forest Park voted to fund the HUD house with interest from money it is saving to buy property, pastor Steve Dighton said.

In January, the church chose a two-bedroom home from HUD's list of repossessed houses. Volunteers painted, cleaned, put in carpet and donated furniture.

Through a social service agency, the church met George and Jackie Generaux and their three children two days before they were to be evicted.

"George had a job at a grocery store but he only brought home \$600 a month," said Ginger Howell, one of the church members leading the project. The family's rent was \$250 a month, and the utility bill was more than their rent because the house was so poorly insulated. They had no refrigerator and the stove was not connected.

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"It was so cold in their house that we never took our coats off, but the children didn't have on socks or shoes," Howell recalled. The family moved into the church's HUD house the following weekend.

Moving the family to new accommodations was the easy part, Howell said. Helping them adjust to a new way of life took commitment and patience.

Though church members had stocked the kitchen with food, Mrs. Generaux didn't know what to do with frozen food or how to turn on a stove. None of the children were immunized, the 3-year-old was not toilet trained and the 8-month-old could not roll over.

"We've gotten pretty frustrated, but it's been a learning and growing process for all of us," Howell said. "It was obvious that no one ever cared about Jackie and George before. We never gave up."

Though the project was initiated by Forest Park's women's ministry, it became a churchwide effort. Volunteers took care of the children so the parents could work on high school equivalency degrees. Others hosted birthday celebrations for the children, made household repairs, provided transportation and gave hair cuts.

Now Mrs. Generaux is working, the oldest child is in kindergarten, the middle child is toilet trained and the youngest is walking. Mr. and Mrs. Generaux made professions of faith and are being disciplined by church members.

The family was approved to live in government housing, and they planned to move in November. The church is giving them all the furnishings from the HUD house. "I don't think we'll ever say goodbye to Jackie and George," Howell said.

Whether the church assists another family depends on God providing leadership, Dighton said. People must have a passion for the ministry and time to invest in others' lives, he noted.

It also takes "someone who is not shocked by the reality of where these people are," he said.

When the family moved into the HUD home, they agreed there would be no illegal drugs or alcohol on the property. Dighton said he would be leery of such a ministry without strict supervision. A social worker who met with the family weekly was an invaluable asset, he added.

In addition to providing shelter, churches can minister to the homeless by providing health care, food, clothing and employment services, according to a Home Mission Board church and community ministries brochure. For copies of the four-page manuscript, call the HMB customer service line, 1-800-634-2462 and request item 632-73F.

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Baptist journals, worship services  
feel trends reflected by USA Today By Keith Hinson

Baptist Press  
10/28/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--As USA Today marks its 10th anniversary this year, it is widely regarded as a major trendsetter in American journalism and society at large.

Second in circulation only to The Wall Street Journal, USA Today has even made an impact on numerous religious publications, including Baptist newspapers, which have borrowed some of its techniques -- short articles, catchy charts and graphs and generous use of color.

Elizabeth Young, editor of the Arizona Baptist Beacon, said the influence of USA Today is evident in some state Baptist newspapers' better use of graphics, charts and color and more attention to design.

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"I think USA Today has caused us to think about how we deliver the news," Young said, "getting the most information to the reader in the easiest form possible for them to understand."

Jack Brymer, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, said he believes USA Today has "had an impact on all of journalism. It has made the print media more like television -- with shorter stories, bigger headlines."

A few years ago, the Witness was redesigned and adopted some of the features popularized by USA Today. Brymer said the changes were made "not so much because USA Today did it, but because our people are now television-oriented, and they've got to have stuff quick and in brief blurbs. So we're doing more and more of that."

Tommy Thomason, associate professor of journalism at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and a member of Fielder Road Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, agreed USA Today has had an impact on Baptist state papers and local church publications.

"There's been a real difference" compared to 10-15 years ago, Thomason said. "They have many more graphics than they used to. They're using color a whole lot more."

Television's impact on USA Today was because Al Neuharth, USA Today's founder, thought there was a market in America for a national newspaper that would present its information in a television-like format, "much more visual, much more graphics-oriented, a lot less detail," Thomason said.

Thomason said television packages the news differently than print: "It's more action-oriented, more conflict-oriented, more giving abbreviated versions of things without as much detail. Now we have a newspaper that's essentially doing the same thing.

"Even ... the boxes in which the newspapers are sold were designed to look like television screens," he said.

USA Today's TV-like quality could be a source of ideas for revamping local church publications, according to Darrel Baergen, chairman of the department of communication arts at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Baergen said churches are "locked into a more traditional format" in their publications.

"What I would be interested to see is what kind of impact the abbreviated style of USA Today might bring," Baergen said. "If I had my druthers, I would encourage churches to do an abbreviated style of verbal communication similar to USA Today -- good crisp headlines, articles that aren't long, that are cogent and to the point."

Baergen also suggested churches might learn something about how to structure worship from USA Today. "I think ultimately churches ought to take advantage of what USA Today represents," he said.

During worship, many churches expect the congregation to listen to a sermon of 30 to 40 minutes but "that's the only experience during the week when they're expected to do that. Everything else they get is in smaller chunks -- whether that's news, or whether that's in print, or whether that's driving to work ... Even at work, they get smaller chunks of information," Baergen said.

"I wonder if we shouldn't break up some of our delivery concepts into ... bite-size chunks," Baergen said. He suggested that a sermon might be broken into three parts with dramatic or musical interludes that would fit the theme of the message.

Another journalism teacher, Harry Marsh, said that "what USA Today realized was that people don't use newspapers the way they used to."

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A faculty member at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan., Marsh linked the decline of newspaper readership and the decline in church attendance to the many choices Americans have today in how to use their time.

"Newspapers used to be an absorbing way to spend an hour or two hours or three hours a day," Marsh said. "That's no longer true. There are all kinds of things that people can do with their time.

"The role of the church service has (also) changed. There are so many other things going on now. People don't have long periods of time to devote to any one given thing," said Marsh, who grew up as a Southern Baptist and is now a member of Manhattan's College Avenue Baptist Church, an American Baptist congregation.

Thomason also noted the relationship between declining newspaper readership and declining in church attendance. "I think some of the same things that motivated the editors originally to start (USA Today) are motivating the local church now," he said.

USA Today was started to serve a "market niche" of people who were not buying newspapers, Thomason said, particularly the younger generation which doesn't "have the habit of reading newspapers . . . . That same group of people is, by and large, perhaps the people that churches are going after.

"Sometimes they don't have the habit of attending worship services. And sometimes they don't relate to hymns that were written 200 years ago and very formal worship services and attending dressed in a certain fashion," Thomason said.

Young said she believes growing churches have noticed the same trends in society that gave rise to USA Today, such as "keeping things short and simple, visually pleasing."

Brymer, meanwhile, pointed to television as having had a major impact on worship. "People want to be entertained. They want it quick."

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Baergen says SBC should use television more effectively

By Keith Hinson

Baptist Press  
10/28/92

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--For all the influence of television on society and the church, Darrel Baergen doesn't think Baptists have come to grips with the tube.

"We're great at criticizing television, we're not very good at using it," said Baergen, who is chairman of the department of communication arts at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Baergen calls the SBC a "very verbal denomination," primarily communicating through the spoken word -- teaching and preaching -- and through the written word in various church newsletters, bulletins, quarterlies and other publications.

"Because I think our roots are set in that sort of verbal and print orientation," said Baergen, "we're very suspect of anything that is a new delivery system, such as television."

Baergen cited the death of the Baptist Telecommunication Network as evidence "of the lack of vision among many Southern Baptists about what television and what video communication could become."

Some developments in SBC life are encouraging to Baergen, such as Southwestern Seminary's use of a Monday telecourse that is broadcast via satellite to "eight different downlink campuses. That telecourse was a long time coming. We should be doing more of those. We should be having seminary classrooms all over this nation that are being delivered by an interactive television capability, because the technology is there. We just haven't taken advantage of it."

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Asked if such an innovation would hurt enrollment at traditional campuses, Baergen said, "No, I think it expands the numbers. I think it allows us to reach people away from the campus who would not under any other circumstances come to the campus."

Baergen acknowledged budgetary concerns may discourage some churches from utilizing TV to help accomplish their goals. But he said that many cable companies will supply video production equipment for churches and other community groups, sometimes at no cost.

Television programs produced by churches may then be aired on a local-access channel. "What most cable systems supply is a channel that allows for local production," Baergen said. "So cable has allowed many groups access to the television screen that they wouldn't have had before."

Baergen also suggested churches take advantage of local programming time on the ACTS channel when a cable system carries that network. "Local insertion is a possibility for churches at minimal cost. You don't have to go into this thing with high dollar investment," he said.

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20,000th SBC church enters  
expanded Annuity Board plan

By Tim Tune

Baptist Press  
10/28/92

DALLAS (BP)--Cresthill Baptist Church in Savannah, Ga., has become the 20,000th "expanded participating church" in the Church Annuity Plan administered by the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board.

Expanded participating churches are those which have signed a "Cooperative Agreement" with their state Baptist conventions, providing eligible staff members with matching state convention funds for their annuity plans. The expanded plan was inaugurated in 1988.

Cresthill's action extends coverage, for example, to Douglas Chanco, pastor of the church-sponsored Filipino-American Baptist Mission in Savannah.

With the help of Cresthill, along with the Savannah-area Baptist association and state Baptist convention, Chanco will have more security for his family and more retirement income through the Church Annuity Plan.

By entering into the Church Annuity Plan "Cooperative Agreement" in early July, Cresthill gave Chanco and two other church staff members the opportunity for added-value benefits, including the matching retirement plan contributions and protection benefits paid for by the state convention.

"We didn't want to miss the boat" on the state convention benefits, Cresthill's pastor, Lamar Duke, said.

By signing the Cooperative Agreement, Cresthill adopted the Church Annuity Plan as the retirement plan it will provide for staff and employees. The agreement encourages staff members to contribute at least 5 percent of pay and the church to match those contributions two for one, up to 10 percent of pay.

Chanco's monthly Church Annuity Plan contributions have more than doubled now. And because his monthly contributions are at least \$105, Chanco is eligible for state convention contributions of \$35 per month. The first \$17.50 provides the "Protection Benefit Section" that would pay Chanco up to \$300 a month if he became disabled before retirement. A \$35 monthly credit would also go to Chanco's retirement account while he is disabled.

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The Protection Section also includes a death benefit for Chanco's family if he dies before retiring or while receiving a disability benefit. At Chanco's age, 50, the benefit would be \$30,000. The death benefit ranges from \$5,000 for eligible plan members 71 and older to \$67,500 for those 25 and younger.

The additional \$17.50 provided monthly by the Georgia Baptist Convention will go directly into Chanco's retirement account. If Chanco's contributions continue at the new level until age 65, he could retire with 45 percent more monthly income than he would have before. If his contributions increase as his income increases, his retirement benefit will grow even more.

The Georgia Baptist Convention determined Chanco's eligibility for protection section benefits and matching contributions. Each state convention establishes its own eligibility rules. Information about the Church Annuity Plan is available from the Dallas-based Annuity Board.

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Theologian says prayer can start  
'uprising' against world's disorder By Mary Wimberly

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Take individual responsibility and get involved -- that was the recurring message at Samford University during "Millennium III -- Engaging the Future Now" lectures Oct. 19-25.

The week-long examination of issues facing humanity in the next century involved specialists in the diverse but interrelated fields of spirituality, environment, population, poverty, health care and internationalism.

Spirituality, theologian Jan Milic Lochman told students and Birmingham visitors, should not be left out when dealing with world issues.

"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. It opens the space and time for our involvement," said Lochman, a native of Czechoslovakia who is professor of systematic theology at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

"It is good to place our sorrows -- personal and social -- before God, because there a stream of hope comes which assures us, through the hours of disappointment and frustration, that our struggle is not in vain."

Prayer helps one understand that the renewal of the world is not in our hands only, he said.

"It is in our hands, and we are responsible for what we can do, but the responsibility is not the ultimate point of reference.

"The ultimate point of reference is the hope of the kingdom, which makes us alert to the will of Christ, and which gives us the same time the assurance that it is worthwhile to be involved."

Werner Fornos, president of the World Population Institute, noted in his lecture migration from rural to urban areas has caused dramatic overcrowding in cities.

"By the year 2000, half of the world's people will be in the cities," Fornos predicted.

"Global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation and overpopulation are the four horsemen of the 21st century apocalypse," he said.

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"The dangers inherent when a world's population outgrows its environmental resources demand a new commitment to reshaping our future."

The commitment should include assistance for the 500 million women worldwide who want to practice family planning but have no access to contraception and reproduction health education.

Fornos noted 3 billion young people will enter their reproductive years in this generation.

Statistics also show that the world is demographically divided. Ninety percent of the 95 million people added to the world last year were born into the poorest countries.

Nancy Amidei encouraged students to become activists in solving the problem of poverty, which affects some 35.7 million Americans.

"In the U.S., poverty could be reduced with awareness and activism," said Amidei, a social worker who writes extensively on health and social policy issues.

"Our poor are young, our poor are getting poorer," she said, citing statistics that some 35.7 million Americans live below the poverty line, set at about \$13,000 for a family of four.

"Half of the poor children are living in homes with an income at half of the poverty line.

"We could wipe out poverty if we wanted to. The reason we have so many poor is largely political," said Amidei, citing tax and wage policies and budget cuts, among other factors.

In the 1960s, the old were poor, she said, but that trend has reversed so that children are now the ones in poverty.

Due to persistent wage discrimination and high housing costs, women are poor despite the fact that more are working. "When women are poor, children are poor."

Amidei challenged students to take responsibility. "It doesn't take big numbers to wipe out poverty but it takes a big commitment. Everyone cannot be a full-time advocate, but everybody can be a lifetime advocate."