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NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #75
Nashville, Tennessee 3720
(615) 244-235
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-891
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., #554, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

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Leaders at summit conference
affirm Cooperative Program

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
12/4/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist denominational executives from state and national entities affirmed the Cooperative Program as the "finest method available for Baptists to work together to reach a needy world" in a high-level summit conference Dec. 2-3 in Nashville.

An outgrowth of six CP Issues Dialogues sponsored by the SBC Executive Committee and held throughout the nation during the past year, the summit conference drew 33 state convention executive directors to dialogue with officials from the Executive Committee and the SBC Stewardship Commission.

After double digit growth in the 1970s and early 1980s, the Cooperative Program has leveled off during the past decade. For the past two years, at the SBC level, year-end CP gifts have totaled slightly less than the previous year.

No votes were asked for, nor taken, during the meeting but a consensus appeared in a mutual affirmation of the nearly 70-year-old SBC channel for missions.

"The forum ... provided a fine opportunity for the state executive directors to engage in frank, open discussion with the president of the Executive Committee, Dr. Morris H. Chapman, his staff, Dr. Rudy Fagan of the Stewardship Commission and his staff and Dr. David Hankins, chairman of the Executive Committee," Cecil Sims, president of the state executives' group, told Baptist Press following the meeting. Sims is executive director of the Northwest (Oregon-Washington) Baptist Convention.

The conference was held under background rules which allowed Baptist Press to be present but with no attribution nor quotes allowed in the coverage.

"Dr. Chapman encouraged openness and listened intently as many facets of Cooperative Program relationships were expressed. The executive directors unanimously affirmed the CP as the finest method available for Baptists to work together to reach a needy world," Sims said.

Chapman, Executive Committee president since Oct. 1, called the conference "an exceptionally good meeting."

"A quick commonality was established around our mutual affirmation of the CP and unwavering commitment to world missions," Chapman told Baptist Press.

Chapman said the state executives were helpful to him and "showed a genuine interest in the thoughts which I expressed."

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Although no voting took place, Chapman said the meeting was not designed as a time for specific actions, but rather as a time of informal discussions about matters which mean "much to all of us."

A number of state executives, speaking with Baptist Press informally after the meeting, expressed hope that all the entities involved have now shared their opinions, have found a consensus and are ready to work together to promote and affirm the Cooperative Program.

During the three sessions topics ranged from the different ways states and the SBC identify mission gifts, sometimes recorded as Cooperative Program while at other times as designated gifts; nomination of people for SBC boards who are not representative of state Baptist constituency; the practice of "preferred items" in state budgets before the CP division to the SBC; wills and bequests shared between states and the SBC.

Promotion of the Cooperative Program, whose responsibility it is and its effectiveness; a general erosion of trust between the states and the SBC and the perceptions of each; a definition of Cooperative Program; state of churches, their giving patterns; associational giving and its impact; and other matters.

Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president of the Executive Committee and primary coordinator of the six dialogues and the summit meeting, said the purpose of the Nashville meeting was for "discovering and developing understandings and relationships that will enhance the future effectiveness of the Cooperative Program."

After three long sessions over two days, it appeared his statement could fairly summarize the conference at the SBC Building. What difference it makes for the future, none of the leaders wanted to predict but most were optimistic.

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Virginia Baptists launch
historic fundraising campaign By Michael J. Clingenpeel

Baptist Press
12/4/92

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--In the first action of its kind, the Virginia Baptist General Board unanimously approved a multi-million dollar fundraising campaign Dec. 1 to supply capital for 10 current or newly-developing ministries.

The campaign, launched under the title "Living Our Legacy," is designed to raise from \$5 million to \$12 million in gifts and pledges by 1995.

It is believed to be the first time a state convention has embarked on a campaign to raise money for state ministries apart from its annual budget and state missions offering. It is common practice for agencies and institutions of state conventions to conduct such fund-raising efforts, but not the state association itself.

By undertaking this campaign Virginia Baptists would be "living out the legacy given us by our forebears and projecting this legacy into the future," said VBGB Executive Director Reginald McDonough in his introduction of the campaign to a packed chapel at the Virginia Baptist building Dec. 1.

To an audience composed mostly of general board members and staff, McDonough described the development of the capital fundraising campaign as a way to finance the priorities of missions, evangelism and leadership development into the 21st century, priorities set forth by the BGAV strategic planning committee for the 90s.

Here is how the campaign works. Over the next 27 months, regional campaigns will be conducted in seven areas of Virginia. Each regional campaign will last about six months, and will target individuals, not churches or associations.

Undesignated gifts will be distributed on a pro rata basis among 10 priority ministries selected during regional hearings and sample interviews conducted with Virginia Baptist laity and clergy early in 1992.

Donors also may designate one or more of these ministries to be the recipient of their gifts.

Three goals have been set; a base goal of \$5,075,000, challenge goal of \$7,625,000 and victory goal of \$12,400,000.

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McDonough announced \$1.2 million already had been given and pledged. A portion of this, \$71,000, was given or pledged by members of the VBGB staff.

The campaign grew out of a realization the BGAV annual budget could not support all future priority ministries of Virginia Baptists without ending financial support of some current ministries. Money raised through the "Living Our Legacy" campaign will "take some old tools and sharpen them" and provide for "new wineskins" said McDonough.

In 1991 the office of strategic resource development, headed by Timothy K. Norman, was established by the general board to engineer a plan to raise capital funds for Virginia Baptist ministries. Also that year Cargill and Associates, a professional fund-raising company in Fort Worth, Texas, was retained to formulate the campaign.

At their April meeting, the general board approved the concept of the campaign. In their December session, the general board voted to proceed with the campaign and retain Cargill and Associates for at least another 16 months to direct regional campaigns around Virginia.

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EDITORS' NOTE: Europe correspondent Mike Creswell recently returned from a second visit to several parts of embattled former Yugoslavia. He filed the following stories and accompanying photos.

Southern Baptists feeding refugees,
but local Baptists the real heroes

Baptist Press
12/4/92

By Mike Creswell

BELGRADE, Serbia (BP)--Southern Baptists in America are helping feed thousands of refugees who have fled the bitter civil war in former Yugoslavia.

But the real heroes are local Baptists who distribute food from outside donors through programs run on nickels, dimes, hard work and faith.

A previously announced \$225,000 gift from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will provide food to more than 30,000 people over the next two to three months. Many of them are Bosnian families who have left their homeland with little more than their lives. Southern Baptist missionary Bill Steele is helping coordinate use of the funds.

Baptists work on all sides of the conflict, helping Croatians, Serbians and Bosnians alike:

-- In Puscine, northern Croatia, Baptist layman Bratko Horvat has turned the warehouse of his electronics firm into a clearinghouse for refugee ministry. The modern facility normally filled with fax machines and copiers now bulges with food, clothing, shoes and other items. Horvat sends his own trucks around the city where 10,000 Bosnian refugees have settled. At times he even sends trucks into Bosnian territory to distribute aid.

Horvat personally has preached at the front lines. He distributes food and clothing to Muslim refugees with no strings attached, but uses every opportunity to spread his faith.

"Jesus is not American, not Croatian and not Serbian," he tells the refugees, whom he prefers to call "guests."

"When you talk the people cry, but when our man talks nobody cries. What power do you have?" one Muslim man asked Horvat.

-- At Sisak, Croatia, near the Serbian war front, Baptist worker Zelko Mraz flips through receipts for the food Getsemane Mission has bought with Foreign Mission Board funds: 2,400 cans of stew, 500 kilograms of noodles, 500 liters of cooking oil, 500 pounds of rice, 1,500 kilograms of sugar.

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Each 21 days workers with the Baptist-led organization distribute food parcels to about 400 families the government has committed to their care. With few of their own resources, they depend on outside aid to help meet the pressing needs around them.

-- In Zagreb, Croatia's capital city, the Baptist group "My Neighbor" is using a \$25,000 gift from Southern Baptists to feed about 2,000 people for two months. The ministry, based in Zagreb Baptist Church, operates a clothing warehouse and an extensive food distribution ministry across Croatia. "My Neighbor," probably the biggest of the Baptist-related refugee ministries, has established a newsletter to report on its work.

-- Daruvar Baptist Church in the United Nations-protected town of the same name also depends on outside help, said pastor Misko Horvatek. With just 74 members, the church has taken on the mammoth responsibility of caring for 400 refugee families in the town of Krapina. To heighten the challenge, the church lost its entire savings account of prewar Yugoslavian currency at the bank.

Church members even pay rent for some refugee families to assure them of housing. But they will use the \$20,000 given to the church by the Foreign Mission Board only for food, in keeping with careful agreements. Horvatek recently bought five tons of protein-enriched food supplement to mix with regular flour to make it more nutritious. Members also distribute New Testaments to many of the families they help.

-- At Osijek, Croatia, a major bridge near the town center lies shattered in a river that separates the town from Serbian-held territory. The city is quiet now, but many buildings are pockmarked by automatic weapons fire from previous fighting.

Toma Magda, pastor of the 50-member Baptist church here, said the congregation supports 100 refugee families with food. Some are Croatian, some Serbian and others are Bosnian, reflecting the hurt the war has dished out to all sides.

"We're delivering the food and talking with the refugees, not just handing out the food," Magda said. "We mean not only to present the gospel but to keep in touch and determine other needs. We're helping 100 families" and we want them to be 100 families in real need."

That hasn't been difficult in Osijek. Magda told of visiting families with no blankets or heat in the house and no clothing beyond what the people wore. Sometimes seven people live in one room.

Each person gets cooking oil, sugar, milk, flour, canned meat, noodles, jam, a New Testament and a tract about the identity of Christ. "We also offer our shoulders to lean on when they cry. That's important. Some just come to us to talk," said Magda.

Church members don't ask about religious backgrounds of refugees; it's too touchy a question these days in a land where your religious background can get you killed.

The church has helped 400 refugee school children get nourishing lunches by providing food for the school staff to prepare. Members plan to expand the program to a second school, Magda said. The church also has distributed several tons of clothing provided by Brethren churches in Germany and detergent for washing baby diapers provided by others.

-- In Belgrade, two Baptist churches have joined other evangelicals to form "Bread of Life" to help feed about 1,000 people for four months with a \$25,000 gift from Southern Baptists. At a Pentecostal church that serves as a distribution center, worker Dordana Sepelj has a smile and a pat on the shoulder for troubled couples who came to seek help.

In this Serbian city, once capital of all Yugoslavia, one sees no tent cities. But many refugees live in former army barracks or tourist hotels. Most stay with relatives, friends or volunteers. But their needs are hardly less desperate. Many escaped with only their clothes.

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-- Slovenia is the newly independent country that used to be northern Yugoslavia, with a population of about 2 million. Just five small Baptist congregations worship here -- part of the 500 or so evangelicals in the predominantly Catholic country. But they, too, minister to the many refugees who have fled here. About 20,000 refugees live in 65 camps while another 60,000 stay with relatives across Slovenia.

Martin Hlastan, pastor of the Baptist church in Ljubljana, the capital city, displayed 4,200 liters of cooking oil he was preparing to distribute to refugees. At an apartment building converted to a Red Cross refugee center, director Dragica Sevsek said most of the 400 residents are women and children. Most of the men are still fighting in the war to the south. "The women need underwear and winter shoes," she said.

Hlastan has carried food and medical supplies to help with refugee ministries in Novi Sad, which is in Serbian-held territory. The gesture reflects how Baptists have fought the divisions imposed by war.

"There are 13 different nationalities among our church members, including Serbians and Croatsians," Hlastan said. He forbids talk against any nationality because of the increased sensitivities.

As the war drags on into the winter, hardships will increase for many refugees as weather makes already poor roads impassable. With no end in sight to the fighting, Baptists will minister for months to come.

One positive result of the war: Baptists have become widely recognized as people who give substance to their faith through service. "In the past the government persecuted Baptists. But Baptists have helped in humanitarian aid and this has helped to establish an identity," said Osijek pastor Toma Magda.

"We must move now. Now's the time to serve and evangelize and reach out," declared Branko Lovrec, leader of the Croatian Baptist Union in Zagreb. "Now, now, now."

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(BP) photos (two horizontal) mailed Dec. 4 by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutlines available on SBCNet Newsroom.

Missionaries minister
in Croatian war zone

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press
12/4/92

LIPIK, Croatia (BP)--"Don't go down that way. It's heavily mined and you might not come back," the United Nations soldier told Southern Baptist missionary Bill Steele.

Making sure he went right instead of left, Steele continued out of Lipik, a town in Croatia, past the burned-out shell of what once was a luxury hotel. A few blocks later he passed the charred skeleton of a regional hospital.

At another United Nations checkpoint, the missionary showed his passport to a U.N. soldier from Argentina who wanted to practice his English before waving him on. Southern Baptists want to help war refugees in what used to be Yugoslavia. Somebody has to administer the details involved in distributing almost a quarter of a million dollars in relief funds to small Baptist congregations scattered across the region.

That assignment has fallen to Bill Steele.

Steele and his wife, Debbie, live in Belgrade, Serbia, with their children, Barry, 8, and Sara, 2. The Steeles, of Columbus, Ga., served at Temple Baptist Church in Springfield, Ky., before they were appointed missionaries in 1988.

Belgrade, a city of 2 million people, was capital of all of Yugoslavia before war and religious-racial hatreds broke the country's provinces into warring factions. More than 10,000 people have died in fighting that has created well over 1 million war refugees.

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As in most wars, the "front lines" are seldom as clearly defined as the crisp graphics on the 6 o'clock news might suggest. In some parts of Croatia lie pockets of resistance where Serbians have hidden out in heavily forested areas. They happened to be living on the Croatian side of the border when the provinces split into separate countries, and they aren't willing to surrender or leave. From their hidden bases they launch guerrilla attacks against Croatian soldiers and, at times, civilians.

Local Baptists have warned Steele about certain forested areas with rolling hills where Serbian guerrillas have established bases.

Nowhere is the ugly face of war more evident than in the systematic demolition of homes previously owned by Serbians inside Croatia. Along many stretches of highway, every fifth or sixth home has been blown to rubble.

"That's another Serbian home, or what's left of it," Steele said, nodding towards one set of ruins.

Traveling the region is hardly safe and certainly not easy. The Steeles can't even telephone Nela Williams, their Southern Baptist missionary colleague in Zagreb, Croatia. The lack of travel and communications handicaps Baptists in the former Yugoslavian republics.

Getting from Belgrade to Zagreb once was a three-hour drive along Yugoslavia's north-south highway. Now the journey is a day-long drive along often treacherous roads. Zagreb now is in another country; Steele must drive up to Hungary on winding, two-lane roads and enter Croatia at one of several small border crossings.

Tractors, slow-moving Eastern European cars, pedestrians, bicyclists and even horse-drawn carts all share the roads with 18-wheel trucks and German-made luxury cars whose drivers want to go 100 miles per hour. Cold weather brings rain and thick fogs that reduce the days to a flat gray and destroy visibility. There's a further complication: Steele can't even drive his Serbian-registered car into Croatia. He would be arrested at the border or probably shot at if he made it inside.

Steele seems to take the tedious crossings in stride. He manages to get smiles from the stern-faced guards as he jokes with them in their own language. But he admits it is a nerve-racking process that makes travel scheduling almost impossible.

Each border crossing takes an hour on a great day; it can take six or eight hours on a not-so-great day. By November crossings had improved somewhat after the Serbian government authorized independent gasoline stations to sell fuel at whatever price they could get. Some stations charge up to \$8 per gallon. Before that, entrepreneurs would drive into Hungary, fill their tanks with gasoline and re-enter Yugoslavia, where they would empty most of the fuel into containers to re-sell. By doing this repeatedly, they jammed the border crossings with heavy traffic.

Finally in Croatia after one such trek, Steele got a warm welcome from Mr. and Mrs. Slavko Konecki at Daruvar. After greetings had been exchanged Mrs. Konecki slapped a big skillet on the stovetop and soon filled Steele's plate with tasty jam-filled pancakes.

"Well, it's not all hard work," the missionary said with a grin, sipping a cup of hot tea.

Life at home in Serbia isn't all grim either. A widely publicized trade embargo against the Serbian government seems to have little effect. Debbie Steele shops at stores still well-stocked with meats, fruits and vegetables, most of them produced in the country. Only a few imported items such as European chocolates have vanished from the shelves, she said. A McDonald's restaurant in central Belgrade still sells Big Macs, its uniformed staff seemingly unaware a bloody war rages just a few hours' drive away.

But prices have risen on almost all items in the past year. Price hikes and occasional shortages have been caused mainly by the hoarding of goods by Serbians uncertain of what tomorrow will bring. The war also has reduced medical supplies. Women entering the hospital to have babies must buy their own medical supplies at a pharmacy to take with them.

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Pedestrians stroll along downtown Belgrade streets as life continues more or less normally for many. But virtually every city bus is packed with passengers since many citizens use public transportation instead of buying expensive gasoline for their cars.

Steele preaches periodically at 80-member First Baptist Church, one of two Baptist congregations in Belgrade, helping Alexander Birrish with pastoral duties. Steele also teaches New Testament each month at the Baptist theological seminary in Novi Sad, about an hour's drive from Belgrade. In November he traveled to Slovenia, formerly northern Yugoslavia, to begin making plans for the arrival of a new missionary couple there next March.

Mrs. Steele also works at the Belgrade church, leading weekly prayer sessions for women and helping with the clothes distribution ministry. She supplements son Barry's English-language school education with a home teaching system and teaches English to neighborhood children. Barry enjoys life with friends in the neighborhood and has become fluent in the Serbian language.

For now the Steeles are committed to ministry in Yugoslavia, despite the war and a troublesome medical problem she has fought in recent months.

But they count on Southern Baptists' prayers to get their work accomplished -- and to get from one place of service to another alive.

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(BP) photos (one vertical, one horizontal) mailed Dec. 4 by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutlines available on SBCNet Newsroom.

Blood in the gutters:
life in dying Yugoslavia

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press
12/4/92

DARUVAR, Croatia (BP)--Blood ran through the gutter in front of the Baptist church when pastor Misko Horvatek arrived to prepare for Sunday worship.

Three policemen had died the night before near the church; Horvatek had heard the shots. Their blood still trickled through the gutter the next morning -- a vivid reminder of the war that has stayed with Horvatek even though it happened months ago. Violence continues.

In October mortar rounds were fired towards the town's police station but failed to hit the building, reported Baptist layman Slavko Konecki. That was nothing new for Konecki. A year ago during heavy fighting in the area three artillery shells fell in his back yard, breaking out all the windows in his house and blowing in the door. His family escaped injury.

The Koneckis sent their children to stay with family in Czechoslovakia. His brother's house was destroyed; now he and his family live in the home of another Baptist family that left the country.

Traveling from Zagreb, Croatia's capital, to Daruvar requires passing through several United Nations security checkpoints. The roads teem with white UN vehicles. But their presence doesn't stop all the guerrilla attacks by Serbian "chetniks" -- paramilitary fighters who have set up strongholds in forested areas from which to attack their Croatian enemies.

Zlatko Seba, a deacon in the Daruvar church, tells of working in an electrical substation when Serbian planes bombed the area last January.

Bombs fell within 60 yards of the substation -- knocking out windows, throwing him against a wall and filling the air with smoke and dust. Even amid the explosions, he feared tanks filled with 20 tons of oil would explode and destroy the whole complex. Instead the oil ran into the nearby Toplica River, adding to the ecological disasters war has brought to the region.

"After the blasts I wasn't hurt, but I was in shock," he recalled. "I couldn't talk. When I saw what the rocket did in the area, I knew that it was only by God's grace I was saved."

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Another time Seba was driving through a police security checkpoint. When he approached, the policeman recognized him and waved him on. As Seba drove off a bomb fell where his car had just been. Had he stopped for the security check he almost certainly would have been killed.

Later, as he approached a red light, it turned green and he continued on. Just after he passed three rocket bombs fell, one only a few feet behind him. But they didn't explode. Again, if he had stopped for the red light, one of the rockets would have made a direct hit on his car.

The onslaught of war rendered Pastor Misko Horvatek almost helpless: "I was afraid of air raids. I couldn't think. I lost direction in life. I was angry at God and even had trouble praying," he said. But he finally "got his life back into gear" and began carrying out an extensive relief ministry.

In Sisak, Croatia, Ivan Cacic is another kind of casualty -- at least his old self was. Earlier Cacic was an avowed atheist who held a high-ranking position in Yugoslavia's communist government.

War experiences have changed Cacic's mind about God. Now he believes God exists. Local Baptists are praying he will make the final decision to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior even as he faces personal pain brought on by war. His son is in Serbian-held Belgrade and can't come home because he would be treated as a military deserter. They can't even talk by telephone.

In Osijek, Croatia, Baptist pastor Toma Magda told of helping an aunt, her husband and their five children escape from Bosnia and get into a refugee camp in Hungary. He searched for months in the region to find family members.

A cousin and her husband swam a river to escape. Before, the man had been held in a prison camp and forced to work 14 hours a day with only one meal. He was beaten and sent to a hospital, where he contracted pneumonia, then was sent to the war front, where he was wounded.

"Graveyards are filling up with crosses and people are asking why," Magda said.

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Liberia's capital packed
with refugees ... and fear

By Donald D. Martin

Baptist Press
12/4/92

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--Liberia's besieged capital has become a massive encampment lacking adequate food, water or a cease-fire.

Since renewed fighting in the west African nation's civil war began in October, refugees seeking safety have flooded into Monrovia, swelling its population to nearly 1 million in a city built for only about 400,000 residents.

"Monrovia is a bloated and beleaguered city," explained Southern Baptist missionary Bradley Brown in a message sent via a United Nations satellite phone. "Conditions are often quite bad, with food, water and sanitation being problems."

"Houses are filled beyond capacity with people. It's not unusual for 30 to 40 people to live in one house," added Brown's wife, Carolyn, of Atlanta. "In churches and (r fugee) centers there is only enough room for people to lay down to sleep."

Monrovia's refugees are waiting out the war, wandering the streets during the day, then squeezing into the overcrowded shelters and homes for the night, she said.

More than 2,000 people now live in three Monrovia Baptist churches and Ricks Institute, a local Baptist school, said Brown, from Marietta, Ga. The overcrowding is made worse by a 6 p.m. curfew that confines people to the packed dwellings from dusk to dawn.

Food is in short supply, but relief groups are making sure no one starves, the missionary reported.

"The city is kept going by international relief agencies and NGOs (non-governmental organizations), but there are also a number of highly commendable Liberian relief agencies at work," he said.

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Only three Southern Baptist missionaries remain in Liberia -- the Browns and Kenneth Nicholson, from Magdalena, N.M. The missionaries have focused their own relief work on distributing supplementary packets containing hand and laundry soap, powdered milk and canned fish to refugees at relief centers.

The city's overcrowding has made sanitation a growing problem; diseases spread quickly. In early November the Red Cross reported an outbreak of measles, which grew to at least 10,000 cases. The disease claimed the lives of many children and young people, Brown said.

Since the measles outbreak, U.N. medical relief flights have made it possible to launch an extensive immunization campaign. Southern Baptist missionaries participated in the effort until the fighting forced most of the missionaries to leave the country.

The latest round of fighting began Oct. 15, when rebel leader Charles Taylor and his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) launched an attack on west African peacekeeping forces in Monrovia.

The civil war, which started Christmas Eve 1989, has cost the lives of some 60,000 people. Before the war more than 50 Southern Baptist missionaries worked in the country, which was founded by freed American slaves. The war forced most of the missionaries to evacuate in June 1990. In February 1991 six missionaries returned to Monrovia to set up relief ministries. The group had grown to 14 before the latest wave of violence.

"Even though it has been frightening at times, there has been a calm assurance that we are where we should be," said Mrs. Brown. "I feel that we should be here now to do what we can for the hurting, desperate people all about us."

Staying in Monrovia carries its own message, added Brown.

"Our continuing presence here speaks as no words can of our love for the country and people whom we have lived among and served for almost 30 years," he said.

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Record number of students involved
in summer missions, directors told By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
12/4/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--A record number of Southern Baptist college students were involved in semester and summer missions in 1992, and requests for student help in 1993 are expected to be even higher, according to reports given Dec. 2 at the state student directors meeting in Nashville.

Helen Wood, associate director of the Foreign Mission Board's international service department, said 246 students served as semester and summer missionaries in 30 foreign countries in 1992 -- the highest number in the agency's history. That number does not include 80 students who participated in short-term projects in Russia.

"This is a real high water mark for us," Wood said, offering congratulations to state student directors for their promotion of student missions.

Wood also reported 347 requests for student summer missionaries in 1993 have been received from the foreign mission field, including large requests for help from the Philippines, Australia, and Kazakhstan. To date, only 77 of the requests have been filled, she said.

"We've really had a bumper crop of requests this year. I'm really hopeful that we will have a lot of students over the course of the next three months that will feel called into summer missions."

Another positive missions report was given by Van Simmons, associate director of short-term volunteers at the Home Mission Board. Simmons said 1,496 students were involved in summer missions work in the United States in 1992, up 100 from the previous year and the highest number since 1986. These summer missionaries -- appointed through the HMB, Baptist Student Unions, local churches, and state conventions -- led more than 3,500 people to Christ during their three months of service, he said.

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"I've had many student leaders tell me they've had more students interested in missions than ever before, and we're happy about that," Simmons said, adding he expected requests for student summer missionaries in the U.S. to be up next year as well.

"Thank God for the 1991-92 school year; it has been a wonderful year for student missions," Jeff Lewis, a consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry, said after hearing the missions reports. Lewis and Gail Hallman from the Woman's Missionary Union then unveiled plans for a new missions education package for college students.

"Missions 101" -- a joint venture of NSM, WMU, and the Brotherhood Commission -- will include a pull-out section on missions in the 1993-94 "Student Ministry Plan Book", a special missions section in the August 1993 issue of "The Student" magazine, a 10-week missions Bible study called "Discovering the Heart of God" scheduled for release in the fall of 1993; and many other resources.

State student directors also learned:

-- Thirty-seven college students were appointed by the Home Mission Board in 1992 as US2ers, two-year missionaries serving in the United States. That number may climb to as high as 45 next year, Simmons said.

-- Mission Service Corps volunteers serving in student ministry-related work totaled 141 in 1992, according to Mike Riggins, associate director of the Home Mission Board's MSC department.

-- The 1993 Home Missions Study will focus on "volunteerism," and includes a feature on student ministers.

The state student directors meeting was sponsored by Sunday School Board's national student ministry.

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Bryson named consultant
at Sunday School Board

Baptist Press
12/4/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Harold T. Bryson, chairman of pastoral ministries at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will become a consultant for preaching-worship at the Baptist Sunday School Board Jan. 15.

Bryson assumes the new role in the general leadership department in the church growth-Sunday school division.

"Harold brings a wealth of experience, understanding and commitment to the area of preaching and worship leadership," said Joe Stacker, director of the general leadership department.

Stacker said the addition of Bryson gives the area of preaching and pastoral leadership in worship "a status and visibility it deserves."

Bryson joined New Orleans Seminary in 1976 where he was the J.D. Grey Professor of Preaching.

He has written several Broadman and Convention Press books on preaching, Bible study and evangelism. He contributed material to The Zondervan's Pastors Annual each year from 1976 to 1987.

He has been a frequent contributor to Proclaim, Church Administration and Quarterly Review magazines, providing sermon and preaching suggestions.

Bryson is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary with bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of theology degrees. A Mississippi native, he earned a bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College.

Before joining the faculty of New Orleans Seminary, Bryson was pastor of several Mississippi churches.

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