

(BP)

-- BAPTIST PRESS
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January 17, 1992

92-8

WMU leaders issue call
to prayer, missions

By Susan Todd Doyle

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP)--A conviction that Southern Baptists are losing their passion for missions led leaders of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to take two related actions during their Jan. 11-16 meeting:

-- They issued a call to prayer among the WMU membership for Southern Baptists to reclaim their passion for missions, and

-- National WMU President Carolyn Miller appointed 16 of the leaders to explore action plans and strategies that "could enable the denomination to meet missions challenges and seize the opportunities of the day."

The gathering of WMU leaders at Talladega, Ala., included state WMU presidents, who comprise the WMU executive board, state WMU executive directors, national WMU leaders and their staffs. The leaders met at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega.

The call to prayer is scheduled for noon Monday, Feb. 10, through noon Tuesday, Feb. 11. The call to prayer falls within "Focus on WMU Week" and coincides with the February meeting of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees.

WMU leaders are asking WMU members throughout the country to pray earnestly that Southern Baptists will reclaim their passion for missions.

"Prayer is the most powerful action we can take, no matter what the issue," said Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director. "These are trying times not only within our denomination but within our own country and the larger world scene as well. We must claim the power of the Holy Spirit and the promises of God's Word to guide us every step of the way.

"We must not stop. We must keep marching forward for the cause of missions as long as there is one lost soul left in this world," she said. "We must not be consumed by the darkness of confusion, doubt or fear. We must trust our Guide and his promises."

Miller charged the 16 leaders with considering all possibilities that could lead the denomination back to a priority on missions. She asked them to recommend immediate, short-term and long-term strategies or action plans.

"I deliberately did not give the leaders a name, such as a 'committee' or 'task force' or anything else," Miller said. "I don't even want them to be limited by what we call them. I want them to be totally free to dream."

The group includes state WMU presidents Ellen Teague, District of Columbia; Wynk Hicks, Georgia; Millie Stengl, Kansas/Nebraska; Sandy Hale, New England; Lottie Crim, Wyoming; Gerry Dunkin, Texas; and Margaret Wayland, Virginia. Also named are National WMU Recording Secretary Martha Wennerberg of Florida and immediate past National WMU President Marjorie McCullough of Louisiana.

Representing state WMU executive directors are Beverly Sutton of Alabama, Alberta Gilpin of Missouri and Katharine Bryan of Tennessee. Representing the national WMU staff are O'Brien and the three associate executive directors -- Joyce Mitchell, Bobbie Patterson and June Whitlow.

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The board meeting was punctuated with informal dialogue sessions and small-group discussions among members and guests concerning how current events within the denomination are affecting missions.

During an impromptu, informal dialogue time with Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, the WMU leaders encircled Parks and the home and foreign missionaries present to pray for them.

During the board meeting, WMU leaders also heard a report from the public relations firm of Lawler Ballard Van Durand. The WMU executive board hired the Birmingham firm almost two years ago to lead in an awareness-building effort.

Last year, WMU and Lawler Ballard Van Durand completed a year-long research project to assess opinions and perceptions about WMU. Tinsley Van Durand, president of the firm, reported the findings of the final stage of the five-phase research project -- a national survey among Southern Baptist women. The survey is perhaps the most comprehensive ever conducted among Southern Baptist women, he said.

Results show "there are a number of very clear and positive findings about WMU and its members," according to Van Durand's report. "Ultimately, respondents tell us, there is a difference" between WMU members and non-WMU members:

- WMU members worship at SBC churches more frequently than non-members.
- WMU members are more involved in other church activities than non-members.
- WMU members are more concerned about spreading the gospel among the unchurched than non-members.
- WMU members are more likely to stick to their Christian faith than bend in the face of secular pressure.
- WMU members enjoy a fellowship that is the result of dedication, caring for the unchurched and love for one another.
- WMU members give more to missions causes than non-members.
- WMU members are more satisfied with their level of spiritual development than non-members.
- WMU members are more satisfied with their level of involvement in the church than non-members.

In short, the survey results show, "WMU members are stalwart Christians and members of the SBC community. The presence of WMU in a church is a healthy thing for the church. Properly understood and managed, WMU groups and their members can be a tremendous asset to a pastor. WMU may be, as some have suggested, not only the 'missions conscience' of the SBC, but also its 'loving heart.'"

Based on research findings from all five phases, WMU will launch a campaign in April in 15 states to build awareness about WMU. A four-page, four-color insert will be inserted in regional editions of five magazines: Family Circle, Woman's Day, Parents Magazine, Better Homes and Gardens and Good Housekeeping.

The insert will appear in most of these magazines in Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Arizona and New Mexico.

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The insert will invite readers to contact a local Southern Baptist church for more information about WMU or call a toll-free number for a free video about WMU. Pastors and WMU directors will receive more information about the campaign prior to its launch.

In other business, the WMU executive board:

-- Heard reports from the Home and Foreign Mission boards.

-- Approved revisions in the WMU program statement to make it consistent with program statements used by all Southern Baptist Convention entities.

-- Approved \$61,847 in grants from WMU's endowment fund, the Second Century Fund. Second Century Fund grants are used to support missions work among women abroad and in the United States and to support missions education among women in seminaries.

Grants awarded this year will fund construction of a WMU building in Nigeria; leadership training in Tanzania, the Philippines, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Canada; construction of a WMU camp in Togo; publication of missions education materials in Indonesia and Venezuela; and educational expenses for two women from the Commonwealth of Independent States to study at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Grants also were given to provide leadership training in Colorado, Nevada, New York, Utah-Idaho, West Virginia and Wyoming; to assist with a WMU camp in Ohio; to help with children's work in Iowa; to provide new work area literature; and a offer a language think tank at national WMU.

A grant also was awarded to the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance to help purchase an apartment in Moscow to be used as headquarters for the new Women's Department of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

-- Voted to sponsor a national women's meeting for all Southern Baptist women in the spring of 1996.

-- Heard an update on coed missions ventures with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. The first coed missions resource for youth will be released in October. "Express Missions" is a missions resource kit and is targeted for use by ministers of youth and other youth leaders.

-- Heard the announcement of the 1992 Acteens National Advisory Panel. Acteens is the missions education organization for girls in grades seven through 12. Panel members are Melanie Tedder, Tallahassee, Fla.; Amy Goode, Prospect, Ky.; Shawna Byrd, McLeansville, N.C.; Cassie McAlister, Moore, Okla.; Duffy Walls, Hendersonville, Tenn.; Shona Sugarek, Beeville, Texas. Advisory panel members serve as pages at the WMU annual meeting and the Southern Baptist Convention. They also write and speak on behalf of Acteens.

The next meeting of the WMU executive board will be June 6 in Indianapolis.

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SBC mission board leaders bring reports to WMU executive board

By Susan Todd Doyle

Baptist Press
1/17/92

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP)--Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union leaders heard the convention's two mission board presidents bring challenges and answers during the group's Jan. 11-16 executive board meeting at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly.

In his address, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks identified five missions education challenges he sees facing WMU:

-- Dealing with a denomination full of "cut flowers."

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"Your challenge is to try to grow roots on cut flowers," Parks said. "Fortunately, that can be done in some situations. We face a generation with little biblical knowledge, little denominational loyalty and virtually no awareness of tithing, missions giving and missions education.

"If we are to survive and grow, although we still have some of the terms and some of the images of being a missions denomination, I suggest it's more like a cut flower," Parks said.

-- Overcoming a 90-second news bite mentality.

"When you try to give a world event in 90 seconds, you inevitably distort it," Parks said. "That's the way we learn these days.

"It's pretty tough to do missions education in 90 seconds. You're going to have to learn to grab the attention and expand the attention span to the point that you get people interested in missions education if you're going to develop long-term commitments," he said.

-- Turning a "mirror" perspective into a "window" perspective.

"So many of our people see only themselves," Parks said. "Unless you remove the silver from behind the glass you're not able to see beyond to a needy world." People today are more interested in how things will help their immediate surroundings, he said.

"Our challenge is to somehow create a different paradigm (or way of thinking) where people are not asking 'What's in it for me?,' but 'What would Christ have me do?' and 'What are the needs that need to be met?'"

-- Identifying a new leading force for Southern Baptists.

"You are going to have to identify a new lead steer for the herd of mavericks that are called Southern Baptists," Parks said, suggesting that missions is no longer perceived by some as the leading force within the convention.

"I believe we've lost our lead steer," he said. "The mavericks are scattering in the bushes and in the canyons around us." Parks warned the group that mavericks are "hard to lead out of the bush."

"You are going to have to find a way to re-identify a leading purpose, because you can't really drive, you can't really force, you can't really control," he said. "You will have to create that ideal that people want to follow."

-- Becoming more flexible in organizational matters.

"You are going to have to focus much more on function rather than form, on destination rather than mode of transportation and on ends rather than means," he said.

Parks received a standing ovation from the group.

Isam Ballenger, FMB vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, reported on the FMB's "Green Alert" plan. Green Alert is the FMB's plan of action to respond to the mission possibilities in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Southern Baptists must exercise caution as they seek to work with Christians in the former Soviet Union, Ballenger said. "We must be careful as Christians that we do not exploit the situation and the people." The urge to do something to serve one's own need cannot be the driving force for ministry within the foreign country, he said.

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"There are groups going in, getting a statistic they can bring back home," Ballenger said. "They're not concerned about what they're leaving behind." People within the former Soviet Union are so desperate to get any printed materials they will do anything, he said. Southern Baptists working alongside Baptists within the country can ensure proper follow-up will be done with those who receive evangelistic material, he said.

Ballenger, who has resigned his position at the FMB, expressed his gratitude for the friendship he has had with WMU through the years. "My associations with you have been among the most pleasant and meaningful I've had within the denomination," he said. "I shall continue to be grateful to you."

HMB President Larry Lewis brought responses to questions which arose during last year's WMU executive board meeting about the role of women in home missions.

"A total of 172 women are now serving in the primary missionary role," he reported. "This number is an increase of 75 percent over the 129 women serving in primary missionary roles reported a year ago."

Lewis also reported an "all-time record" of 4,922 missions personnel serving with the board as of December 1991. "A total of 2,080 of these are women," he said.

Leaders of WMU and the HMB have spent the last year studying the issue and making recommendations concerning opportunities for women in home missions positions.

Lewis announced the following recommendations which have been approved by the HMB:

1. To explore ways for the HMB to influence states to request women for missions positions;
2. To examine the recruitment and nurture of women candidates for home missions positions;
3. To address the male-dominated relationship between the missionary personnel department and seminary student populations, and consider employing women on the missionary personnel department staff;
4. To explore and implement a series of experimental models that highlight women in local missions; and
5. To communicate more effectively HMB missions personnel classifications and terminology, including HMB cooperative relationships with state conventions and stewardship of resources.

Lewis also announced the total receipts for the 1991 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering -- \$35,522,892. The offering fell short of the previous year's offering by \$156,777, a 0.44 percent decrease.

Joining Lewis in the HMB report was Ernest Kelly, vice president for planning. Kelly reported that HMB leaders anticipate a sizeable reduction in their 1993 budget.

The budget shortfall "will probably range between 3 and 4 percent of what we had projected for the 1993 budget," he said. "We are confident that any downsizing can be made in Atlanta costs and through attrition in the Atlanta staff. In short, we do not expect any cuts in field ministries but we may have to curtail certain programs and activities in the Atlanta-based budget."

Kelly also emphasized the HMB's commitment to undergirding efforts in new work areas despite the tight budget situation.

"I want to categorically state that there are no plans or desires, expressed or unexpressed, to reduce, withdraw or de-prioritize our commitments to the new work areas of our nation," he said. "This includes our commitment to assisting WMU work in new work areas."

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Sports Illustrated only tells part of Baptist deacon's story" dated 1/14/92, please change the dateline to CLINTON, La.--, not CLINTON, Miss., as written.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "FMB trustees want Europe chiefs out sooner; Parks' future unclear" dated 1/10/92, please make note of the following correction.

In paragraph 3, Parks mentioned in the first sentence is R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board. He was not fully identified in this first reference. This may create some confusion with the name Keith Parker, mentioned in paragraph 2.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Peace pact only 'first step,'
says Salvadoran pastor

By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press
1/17/92

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP)--Salvadorans took to the streets Jan. 16 to celebrate the signing of a peace accord ending El Salvador's 12-year civil war that claimed 75,000 lives.

But the peace pact "is a first step only," said Julio Ernesto Contreras, pastor of The Way Baptist Church in San Salvador. "It's not sufficient just to sign a paper. Both sides have to build real peace in El Salvador."

Government officials, including President Alfredo Cristiani, and rebel leaders from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) signed the agreement Jan. 16 in Mexico City. The peace accord came after nearly two years of negotiations backed by the United Nations.

An initial accord was signed at midnight New Year's Eve, but both sides remained deadlocked on some issues. In the final pact, negotiators agreed to dismantle the FMLN's military structure and establish a land distribution plan. They also agreed to cut the country's military in half. An official cease-fire begins Feb. 1.

While Salvadorans hope prospects for peace become reality, many have a "wait-and-see attitude" about the future of the Central American nation, said Southern Baptist missionary Libby Stennett. When she spoke to Baptist Press Jan. 16, armed conflicts were still being reported in El Salvador.

"I think everyone hopes (that peace will come) but not everyone is confident it will," added Stennett's husband, Bill.

Two days before the accord was signed, the couple celebrated 15 years of missionary service in El Salvador. The Stennetts, from Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va., respectively, work in a literature ministry based in San Salvador.

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For 12 of those years, the Stennetts have seen the personal toll the conflict has taken on Salvadorans. "There are very few families that have not been affected -- losing family members, having businesses destroyed," Stennett said. "And family life has been damaged with the young people being pulled away and being trained in areas of armed fighting."

At the same time the couple has had their own coping to do. Living through war "requires you to look to the Lord for guidance and leadership and depend on him," Stennett said. "We never know when and where something will happen, but that doesn't keep us from moving about with total freedom. We feel the Lord will be protecting us. He's not throwing a wall around us to keep all danger away. We try to use what wisdom he has given us and depend on him. And he has been very faithful."

They also have grown more patient as they have lived through the country's economic hardships resulting from war, Stennett said. They have learned to work around such inconveniences as water shortages and electricity rationing.

During the war evangelical Christians have seen "tremendous opportunities to deal with people. Minds and hearts have been opened that had not been opened previously. Thousands of people have come to know the Lord during these hard times," he said.

Significant growth of evangelicals also has occurred in El Salvador. Before the war started in 1979 less than 5 percent of the population was evangelical in the traditionally Roman Catholic country, Stennett said. Today, about 25 percent of the people consider themselves evangelicals.

Two new political parties with a number of evangelicals also have been formed in El Salvador.

Stennett urged prayer for evangelicals as El Salvador faces the task of reconciliation. As both sides return to civilian life, "Pray that the evangelical churches will respond positively and not be too judgmental and lacking confidence but that they will participate in a positive way in the rebuilding of the country," he said.

"Pray that young boys will be willing to lay down their arms and look for jobs ... that those who will suddenly, we hope, be in civilian life again will find a way of making a good living."

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Veterans of Gulf War
reflect on experiences

By Debbie Moore & Stan Watts

Baptist Press
1/17/92

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Last winter was not a normal time for America and definitely not normal for the Americans serving in Operation Desert Storm.

The Persian Gulf War, which started so suddenly no one was prepared for the emotional trauma, affected the lives of nearly every family in the United States. Mothers left children who were just a few weeks old. Men left new brides. Sons and daughters left classes for which they had just enrolled.

Nearly every town in the United States was affected as neighbors, relatives and friends gathered before sunrise at military reserve headquarters to say tearful good-byes to loved ones. Stores sold out of yellow ribbon and American flags as patriotic citizens trimmed trees, decorated lampposts and doors, and fashioned pins of remembrance.

At every hour of the day, Americans young and old were listening to radios, watching television broadcasts and checking the newspapers to find out the latest on what was happening in the Persian Gulf.

Veterans of the Gulf War from the New Orleans area recently reflected on how the war affected their lives during a discussion at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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This time last year Technical Sergeant Tony Zanka and his family were filled with a feeling of "impending doom," he said. "I never really was afraid I was going to die but I just knew that something drastic was going to happen. (The war) always put a damper on things; the war never really was that far away."

While he was waiting to be sent to Saudia Arabia, Zanka said, "It seemed like my wife was a lot more clingy. We were pretty well sure I was leaving; ... I couldn't tell her when or where, even if I did know. We found we seemed to spend a lot more time alone, just sitting around. We'd start asking questions and we'd just trail off; we didn't know what to say. We didn't know what was going to come but we knew that things were going to change pretty drastically." All his daughter wanted for Christmas this year was for her daddy not to go back to Saudia Arabia.

Technical Sergeant Chuck Walden was on his honeymoon when he got the call to go to Saudi Arabia. "I got married on the 22nd (of December), we had Christmas and we got activated on the 29th. I left to go to the desert on the 5th (of January), so I didn't have much of a honeymoon." Walden was thousands of miles from his new bride for nearly six months. "Last year," he continued, "everybody was pretty apprehensive about what was going to happen. We didn't know what we were getting into; we didn't know how public opinion would be towards the war. Nobody knew how long we were going to be gone. It was pretty tension-filled."

For reserves who are in a military mind-set a few weeks a year, the reality of actually serving in war was a shock for many. "It was hard to think of flying an airline full of happy joyous people one week and the very next week in Saudia Arabia preparing to kill people," U.S. Air Force Reserve Fighter Pilot Major Greg Durio said. "How do you explain to a 5-year-old kid -- your son -- that the airplane he always thought you flew for fun on the weekends, you're really going out (with) ... to kill people now? How do you explain to him why you have to go kill people (when the) only thing he knows you've ever killed before is ducks and doves?"

The Gulf War brought many Americans back to being thankful for the basic things in life. Technical Sergeant David Roberts said his war experience "absolutely makes me much more thankful for my family. And the support that my family gave me when I was over there was overwhelming. It just makes me appreciate everything ... about home. You don't realize how much you miss it or realize how much it means to you until you're gone in a situation like that. Your family is everything."

Mail was very important to everyone during the Gulf War. Besides letters, cards and packages sent by friends and relatives of the soldiers, school children, WMU groups and offices got together to write "Dear Soldier" letters and make "care packages," which arrived in the Persian Gulf area by the tens of thousands.

"I liked to read the letters from the kids," said First Lt. Mike Larkin. Since mail from home could take three weeks to reach the soldiers, Larkin added, "We actually relied on those 'Dear Serviceman' letters. They were a real lift. ... Mail was a real important thing. It meant a lot to know people were thinking of us and to know how much they cared about us and supported us and how much they missed us."

Noting the change in public opinion from the Vietnam War era, Larkin later told of a soldier in his squadron who also served one year in Vietnam. He received more mail his first week in Saudi Arabia than the whole year he spent in Vietnam.

"Letters came from people I knew in my childhood," he continued. "From peers, cousins, distant relatives, friends of relatives, letters just showed up. ... It would sometimes be quite moving; it would really set you back and make you think."

Elementary school children often made things for the soldiers as projects at school. "If it was just a picture they colored, we hung it up," Larkin said. "You'd walk into a tent with a bunch of grown men and see all these pictures -- wall-to-wall pictures -- but that meant a lot to us because it showed that even the kids understood to a degree what was going on, and that was all they could do to support us."

Student group attends
'unofficial' dedication

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Christmas gift a group of 23 Southern Baptist students and student leaders likely will remember most from the recent holiday season is one they received two weeks late -- at least according to the traditional holiday calendar.

The "gift" was a chance to attend a pre-dedication service at Temple of the Gospel Church in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Jan. 7 -- the date Christmas is observed on the Orthodox calendar.

"It was a powerful, powerful service for all of us," said Brad Gray, evangelism and world missions consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's student ministry department. "I won't ever forget it."

The student group included representatives from several Baptist student mission teams involved in renovating the church the last two years. While they were invited back for the dedication by church officials, only two weeks before their scheduled departure the American group learned Temple of the Gospel had rescheduled the dedication because members had been unable to obtain supplies needed to complete the sanctuary.

The Americans decided to make the trip anyway and the Russians made sure it was worthwhile. (Two Americans, Warren McCracken, associate director of student work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Jerry Nash, director of the Baptist Student Union at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., are attending the official dedication Jan. 18-21).

"When we got there they were still working day and night to get the sanctuary finished," Gray recounted. "There were construction tools and debris laying around. There was still a lot of work to be done."

"But on Christmas Day (Jan. 7) we attended a worship service in their fellowship hall and then they took us to their missions center on the other side of town for a meal. Basically, they gave up their Christmas meal and fed us and spent time with us."

Then came a special surprise.

"After lunch they rushed us back to the church and they had cleared everything away and cleaned up the sanctuary. They brought in the pews they had finished, some extra chairs and enough people from the congregation to make it look like there was a church full of people. Then they brought in the choir and marched us down front and held a dedication of the church."

Though the official dedication would not be held until almost two weeks later, Gray said church leaders wanted the students to feel as if they were part of it, because of what the students meant to them.

Tim Newdiger, a student at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., was one of the students on the return trip. He had worked on the church in June 1991 with a student team from Missouri.

"When I left the church last summer there were pretty close to eight stories of scaffolding in the sanctuary. Even though it still wasn't finished this time, just walking in and seeing how it is going to look was great. They already had a lot of the marble down for the stairs and the wooden floor was put in. It's absolutely beautiful. I could really feel the Lord's presence when we worshiped in there."

Like the other students who made the trip, Newdiger was reunited with church members who provided housing and hospitality on his first visit. He stayed with a member of the church staff he referred to as "Tolio."

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"It was really great to see him again," Newdiger said of his tearful reunion. "He taught me a lot about what it means to be a Christian. On the first trip I noticed some scars on his back and when I asked him about them, he never would tell me anything. Later on he told me when he was 7 or 8 years old the army came inside the church, took the kids out and beat them."

Before arriving in St. Petersburg, the American group spent several days in Moscow visiting with Southern Baptist missionaries George and Veda Lozuk and Baptists in several area churches.

"Probably the most striking encounter we had in Moscow was with the church at Metiche, which is kind of a suburb of Moscow," Gray said. "The church is a satellite or mission church of Moscow Baptist Church and it, too, already has a satellite church of its own. They also started a Bible correspondence course and they receive several thousand letters a day."

Gray said visits with Baptist leaders in St. Petersburg and Moscow will lead to future student missions involvement in Russia. "We are still in the planning stages but we could have as many as 15 student ministry projects in Russia in 1992," he said.

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People receiving short-term
assistance increase HMB personnel By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
1/17/92

ATLANTA (BP)--The number of Southern Baptist home missionaries increased by 349 in 1991 because more people were receiving short-term assistance from the Home Mission Board.

The total number of home missions personnel at the end of 1991 was 4,922, compared to 4,573 at the end of 1990.

However, the only group of missionaries which reported an increase was field personnel assistance which went from 936 personnel in 1990 to 1,653 last year, an increase of 43 percent.

People in the field personnel assistance category receive a salary supplement from the Home Mission Board for a limited time, usually two years or less. Many of them start churches or work in specific projects for state conventions or local associations.

"I think the increase in field personnel assistance is a positive sign," said Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board president. "It shows that we are keeping as much money as possible flowing to the field to strengthen and start churches."

Charles Chaney, HMB vice president for extension, said, "There is no way we could adequately respond to all the needs with fully salaried missions personnel. This strategy lets us be better stewards of our resources."

People who receive partial HMB financial support, Chaney noted, are more directly related to the place they serve rather than the HMB.

People receiving field personnel assistance are listed as "approved" rather than "appointed" missionaries. Approved personnel are interviewed by association and state convention leaders but they do not go through an interview or orientation with the HMB.

People serving as mission pastors also are approved personnel. The number of mission pastors serving in 1991 was 915, down from 1,040 in 1990.

The number of appointed personnel dropped 81, from 1,665 in 1990 to 1,584. Appointed personnel are usually long-term or career missionaries. They include missionaries, missionary associates, apprentices and US2 missionaries.

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Some home missionaries direct a HMB program in a state convention or fellowship. The number of home missions personnel serving on state staffs remained at 99 last year.

Mission Service Corp volunteers who serve at least two years are included in missions personnel. The number of Mission Service Corp volunteers counted as missions personnel dropped from 833 in 1990 to 671 last year.

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Indiana Baptists seek help
in starting 52 churches

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
1/17/92

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists in Indiana are trying to start 52 churches this year with the help of fellow Southern Baptists.

The thrust of the church planting effort will coincide with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis June 9-11 as part of the "Crossover Indianapolis" evangelistic endeavor.

Twenty-five sites have been identified as prime locations for new churches, said Carrol Fowler, director of missions for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Some of the sites are mobile home parks and apartment complexes where space already has been secured for church meetings. Another is a county-seat town of 8,600 without a Southern Baptist church. Other sites include areas of predictable population growth.

"We need pastors first of all," Fowler said. The 25 sites selected for the convention focus are less than half the places Indiana Baptists have identified as potential church sites, he said.

Fowler said he is recruiting bivocational pastors and retired full-time pastors to lead the new congregations.

In addition to seeking people to move to Indiana to become pastors of new churches, Fowler said short-term volunteers are needed for Backyard Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools and recreation activities to attract people to the new churches. People also are needed to survey neighborhoods, make phone calls and mail follow-up material.

Though concentrated efforts will take place the week before the SBC annual meeting, Fowler said volunteers are welcome throughout the summer.

Volunteers also are needed to help fledgling congregations. Fowler said 22 churches have been started in Indiana since October.

People interested in helping with the church starts can contact Fowler at the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, P.O. Box 24189, Indianapolis, IN 46224 or (317) 241-9317.

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Baptists offer relief
to Texas flood victims

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
1/17/92

DALLAS (BP)--As record rainfalls swelled the Brazos River in southeast Texas, flooding the homes of about 2,500 Angleton-area residents, Southern Baptist volunteers responded to flood victims with hot meals and Christian compassion.

At the request of the American Red Cross, the Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Mobile Unit was sent to Brazoria County Jan. 8. The mobile unit is an 18-wheel, tractor-trailer rig specially equipped with a self-contained field kitchen.

Setting up food services at the Angleton fairgrounds, Baptist volunteers began providing meals Jan. 11 for more than 1,400 flood victims per day.

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Of the 2,000 homes flooded in the 10-county southeast Texas disaster region centered around the Brazos, Trinity and Colorado rivers, more than 600 were in Brazoria County, according to Jo Flint of the American Red Cross.

About 120 Texas Baptist volunteers from at least a dozen churches in Gulf Coast and surrounding associations ministered to flood-ravaged Brazoria County residents, said Texas Baptist Men volunteer coordinator Troyce Bennett of Williams Trace Baptist Church in Sugarland, Texas. At times more volunteers were available than could be put to work, he noted.

"We've never had a local response like this," said John LaNoue, on-site disaster relief coordinator for Texas Baptist Men. "In terms of efficiency and willingness to serve, this has been an absolute dream operation."

By Jan. 16, one of the two emergency shelters operating in Angleton had been closed as flood victims returned to their homes or relocated to the homes of friends or family.

However, due to mud and water damage and power outages, local residents continued to need the disaster unit's food services, LaNoue said.

No Texas Baptist churches in Gulf Coast Association were known to have sustained structural damage, according to O. Jack Chastain, associational director of missions.

However, heating and cooling units at Holiday Lakes Church near Angleton were damaged by water. Because the church facility was totally surrounded by high water, services could not be held there for three consecutive weeks.

Homes of numerous Baptist families in Brazoria County were damaged, Chastain noted, and a local committee was continuing to work closely with the Texas Baptist Family Recovery Task Force.

As of mid-January, seven families had been granted emergency financial assistance, and an increase in that number was expected, according to Richard Faling, task force coordinator and director of the church ministries department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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Europe director's
home burglarized

Baptist Press
1/17/92

THALWIL, Switzerland (BP)--Keith Parker, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director for Europe, and his wife returned to Switzerland Jan. 12 to learn their home had been burglarized during their absence.

Jewelry, personal effects and papers were stolen in the break-in, which happened sometime after Jan. 5, the date when John Deal, administrative assistant to Parker, had last checked the house. The front door was hammered open and a locked office door and file cabinets in the house were broken open, Deal said.

Local police were at Parker's home in Thalwil Jan. 10 when Deal went by to check the house again. Police had come to investigate after another police department discovered items, taken from the Parker home, in a stolen car involved in an accident near St. Gallen, a Swiss city east of Zurich. Whoever was in the car fled the accident scene before police arrived.

Among the stolen goods in the car was Parker's briefcase. After ripping Parker's initials off the case, the burglars apparently were using it to carry their break-in tools. Police said the car contained stolen goods from several burglarized homes. Bloodstains found inside the wrecked car indicated someone had been hurt in the accident.

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Police tracked the thieves through several area villages but no arrests have been reported.

Parker, 55, announced in Richmond, Va., Jan. 7 he would take early retirement as Europe area director in protest of actions and missions philosophies of Foreign Mission Board trustees. Isam Ballenger, 56, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, joined Parker in announcing his early retirement for the same reason.

Parker and Ballenger will leave their administrative posts Jan. 31 and serve as consultants through February. Their retirements become effective July 1 and May 31, respectively.

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Hong Kong missionary
dies following surgery

Baptist Press
1/17/92

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary William Hailey died Jan. 15 in Fort Worth, Texas, from complications following open-heart surgery. He was 60.

The pastor of International Baptist Church in Hong Kong, Hailey had flown with his wife, Christine, to the United States Jan. 8 on emergency medical leave.

Hailey and his wife were appointed missionaries in 1967 to Indonesia, where he was a student worker. In 1974 the Haileys transferred to Japan, where he was pastor of the Yokohama Baptist Church. They went to Hong Kong in 1981.

A native of Dallas, Hailey received the bachelor of arts degree from Southern Methodist University there and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. While a seminary student, he was a boys' club and gym director in New Orleans and later pastor of Wallace Ridge Baptist Church in Jonesville, La.

Before missionary service Hailey worked for 10 years as Baptist Student Union director at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Hailey is survived by his wife, the former Christine Wilson of Pittsylvania County, Va., and two grown sons, William and Ross.

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

New editors named
for Review & Expositor

Baptist Press
1/17/92

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors James W. Cox and Charles J. Scalise have assumed editorial positions for Review & Expositor, the Louisville, Ky., seminary's faculty journal.

Cox, the Victor and Louise Lester professor of Christian preaching, is the journal's managing editor. A faculty member since 1959, Cox has written or edited 14 books and numerous journal articles. He was editor of Pulpit Digest from 1983-85 and currently serves as an advisory editor for the publication.

Scalise, assistant professor of church history, is Review & Expositor's associate editor. Scalise has written articles for several scholarly, denominational and popular publications. He joined the seminary faculty in 1987.

Review & Expositor, founded in 1904, is published quarterly. It carries articles and book reviews by Southern professors, scholars from other academic institutions, local church ministers and denominational leaders.

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