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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 1, 1992

92-76

CLC's Land, D.C. convention issue  
stands on verdict, L.A. riots

WASHINGTON (BP)--Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, made the following statement about the verdict in the Rodney King case and the ensuing riots in Los Angeles:

"Like most Americans, I was sickened by the videotape of police officers beating Rodney King. It is difficult for me to comprehend how a jury could find these officers not guilty of anything. I am pleased that the federal Justice Department is pursuing the filing of charges under the civil rights laws in this case. Certainly, any fair-minded person would acknowledge Mr. King's civil rights were violated in being beaten senseless by a bevy of club-wielding policemen.

"I understand that Mr. King had led police on a high-speed chase. I understand that he did not comply with the officers' commands. I don't understand how anything Mr. King did or did not do justifies the behavior of these police officers. I personally know several police officers who were nauseated and embarrassed by these policemen's behavior.

"At the same time, I am just as sickened by the nightmarish television images of people being dragged from cars and literally beaten to death because of their race by mobs on a savage rampage. I acknowledge that they have a right to feel frustrated and angry. However, nothing can justify their actions.

"There is no important moral or ethical distinction between what those mobs did to those unfortunate drivers in Los Angeles and a Klan lynching. Nothing can ever justify such sickening violence.

"It must not be forgotten that the vast majority of people of color in Los Angeles, while having the right to feel just as frustrated and just as angry, have not gone on a violent rampage and engaged in murder, theft and socially destructive behavior. In fact, many of them have been victims. They are to be commended for their patience and their restraint with the racism that still plagues our society. We must resolve to do more to reward their patience and justify their restraint by committing ourselves to eradicating the cancer of racism from our society. It is our Christian duty and our civic duty."

The Christian Life Commission is assigned by the Southern Baptist Convention to deal with moral, social, ethical and religious liberty issues.

The following resolution was adopted by leaders of the Baptist Convention of the District of Columbia:

"Whereas, the verdict of "not guilty" issued by the jury sitting in judgement on four white policemen accused of excessive force under the cloak of authority flies in the face of the evidence captured on videotape and subsequently made public.

"Whereas, great frustration and outrage is being felt nationwide due to a miscarriage of justice by failing to condemn a plain and overt act of police brutality.

"Whereas, the failure of justice in this case consists of a number of racially tainted components which have once again revealed the simmering racial tension that continues to seethe just below the surface of our society.

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"Whereas, this case has dealt a severe blow to the struggle for racial justice, racial harmony and the realization of Martin Luther King, Jr's dream for this country.

"Whereas, the Scripture asks, "What does the Lord require of you?" and answers, "But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

"Furthermore, we express utter dismay and disbelief at the verdict in the face of the obvious evidence of police malpractice.

"Furthermore, we sadly admit the racial character of the verdict which refused to hold four white policemen responsible for the savage beating of a black suspect.

"Furthermore, we deplore the counterproductive response on the part of some members of our common community who expressed their frustration through violence, looting, and killing of innocent victims.

"Furthermore, we abhor the systemic racism that still pervades our governmental and social institutions.

"Therefore, we urge the President of the United States to instruct the Justice Department to act immediately and aggressively in investigating and bringing to trial all acts of police brutality and other incidents of discrimination within its jurisdiction.

"Therefore, we call upon all Americans (for no one group has a monopoly on negative racial assumptions) to examine our own hearts to ferret out attitudes of prejudice which drive wedges between us.

"Therefore, we strongly encourage all of God's children to establish bi-racial dialogue in order to facilitate a true understanding of the fundamental barriers that divide us.

"Therefore, we pledge to work with intentionality and determination to overcome the barriers, the painful experiences, the prejudicial attitudes with the aim of building trust and harmony between us all."

The resolution was signed by Carey E. Pointer, Sr., president, Baptist Convention of D.C. and Vicinity; Jere Allen, executive director minister, D.C. Baptist Convention; Kenneth E. Burke, Jr., President, D.C. Baptist Convention; Colin L. Thorne, chair of the public affairs and social concerns committee, D.C. Baptist Convention; Harold C. Hunter, pastor, King Emmanuel Baptist Church; and William A. Moyer III, pastor, Hillandale Baptist Church.

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Trustee committee decides charges  
do not merit Marshall dismissal

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
5/1/92

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Accusations against Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Molly T. Marshall by a Virginia layman do not warrant her dismissal, a seminary trustee committee concluded.

At the April 27-29 trustee meeting, the academic personnel committee told trustees that Marshall had not made controversial statements that had been attributed to her by Austin E. Jones Sr., a retired real estate broker from Blairs, Va. Committee Chairman Richard White of Tennessee said the committee thoroughly examined transcripts of two lectures at Averett College in Danville, Va. and found that Marshall did not say the gospel was "an insult to women," "not good news to many women" or a "deformed image of God" as claimed by Jones.

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The committee reported it "found no charges for dismissal ... based on notations made by" Jones. However, the committee asked for "clarification" from the seminary administration about some statements that appeared in the transcript. Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt was asked to bring a report to the committee at its October meeting.

Trustee chairman W. Wayne Allen of Tennessee said in an interview the request did not mean Marshall was in jeopardy of dismissal. "We just want some clarification," he said.

Jones had called for Marshall's termination in a February letter to seminary trustees from Virginia and in a news release sent to secular and denominational media. In an April 23 letter to seminary trustees, Jones and two other "concerned Baptist laymen" stood by the accuracy of Jones' charges. The laymen said they recently had listened to tapes of the lectures after learning it was available in the Averett library. They said the tape verified the accuracy of a Danville newspaper article Jones used as the basis of his charges. Marshall and seminary officials have disputed the article's accuracy.

On another personnel issue, the committee reported the appointment of a subcommittee to "examine all relevant data" regarding charges against Christian ethics professor Paul D. Simmons.

Simmons, a faculty member since 1970, has been under fire for several years because of his stated views on abortion. The subcommittee was instructed to "seek a second legal opinion" related to Simmons. An opinion rendered by the seminary's attorney concluded there were no grounds for Simmons' dismissal. Trustees voted to pay the cost of the second opinion from reserve funds.

In executive session, trustees turned down a proposal by trustee Jerry Johnson of Colorado to give Simmons a sabbatical leave while trustees contemplate action. "I don't think Dr. Simmons should be teaching in the classroom," Johnson said in an interview. "It's that simple."

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Campus center named  
in honor of Honeycutts

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
5/1/92

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have named the Louisville, Ky., school's new campus center in honor of seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt and his wife, June.

During a celebration of Honeycutt's 10th anniversary as president, trustees announced the \$12 million campus center will be called the "Roy L. and June Honeycutt Campus Center." The campus center, which opened in the fall of 1990, contains comprehensive health and recreation facilities, a post office, book store, small chapel, student commons areas and student-related administrative offices.

The Honeycutts were honored at a seminary worship service and a trustee/faculty/staff banquet in conjunction with the April 27-29 meeting of the board. Trustees presented the Honeycutts a grand piano to show appreciation for the couple's decade of service to the seminary.

During the worship service, representatives of the seminary's trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni offered words of gratitude to Honeycutt.

Trustee chairman W. Wayne Allen of Memphis, Tenn., said he appreciated Honeycutt's role as a reconciler. "His arms are long enough to reach out to great diversity and those long arms are strong and they're loving," he said. "They are able to reach to the right and to the left and bond people together."

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John D. W. Watts, chairman of the seminary's faculty committee, said at the time of Honeycutt's election the faculty knew him as a scholar, teacher, colleague, dean and provost. "You were our choice then and you still are our choice," Watts said. The faculty is grateful for Honeycutt's "wise and steady leadership" and his "open-door policy and frequent appearances in the faculty lounge," he said: "We've appreciated your openness to us and your prompt reporting on trustee actions and other things that concern us."

Honeycutt's understanding of "the complexities of theological education" is evident every day, said Elisabeth Lambert, vice president for student services. "Your appreciation of the history of this great seminary and your understanding of your role and ours in preserving its witness are sources of inspiration and security to all of us," she said.

Dianne Oliver, president of Southern's Student Government Association, said students recognize Honeycutt has been president during a difficult decade. "We are grateful for your continued support of the principles on which this institution was founded," she said. "As students, we believe that freedom of inquiry within a community of faith is the basis for theological education and we appreciate your support of this ideal."

Honeycutt has displayed statesmanship during the denominational crisis, said national alumni association president Emmanuel McCall of Atlanta. "You have shown us how to be calm in Christ even in the midst of severe criticisms, personal injuries and assaults from every side," he said. "You have shown us what Christ meant when he commanded us to love even our enemies and go the second mile."

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Southern trustees approve  
six new professors

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press  
5/1/92

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--In a test of their one-year-old covenant with faculty and administration, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees elected six people to faculty positions by overwhelming margins during their April 27-29 annual meeting.

Despite spirited discussion about the candidates' views on women serving as deacons and pastors, each received only a handful of dissenting votes among the 60 trustees. The professors were elected under the terms of the "Covenant Renewal" approved last year by the Louisville, Ky., school's faculty and trustees. The document specifies that only "conservative evangelical scholars" will be added to the faculty.

New professors elected to tenured positions were:

-- James Chancellor, dean of arts and sciences at Colorado Christian University, as W.O. Carver associate professor of missions and world religions. He holds advanced degrees from the University of Nebraska, Southern Seminary and Duke University.

-- Jack R. Cunningham, associate director of Seminary Extension in Nashville, as J. M. Frost professor of Christian education. He holds advanced degrees from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

-- Timothy P. Weber, professor of church history at Denver Seminary, as David T. Porter professor of church history. He holds advanced degrees from Fuller Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago.

In addition, trustees elected James Nogalski, an adjunct professor at Anderson College, to a tenurable position as assistant professor of Old Testament and Charles J. Scalise, a current Southern Seminary faculty member, to a tenurable position as assistant professor of church history. Nogalski earned advanced degrees from Southern Seminary, the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland and the University of Zurich in Switzerland. Scalise, who holds advanced degrees from Yale Divinity School and Southern Seminary, has been serving under a presidential appointment on a contract basis.

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The trustees also granted tenure to David S. Dockery, dean-elect of the school of theology. Dockery, who will be associate professor of New Testament, was named dean earlier this year by seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt.

In response to questions raised by trustee David Miller of Arkansas, members of the trustees' academic personnel committee said all candidates were open to women serving in ordained roles. Members of the committee conducted lengthy interviews with the prospective professors before recommending their election.

Miller claimed a belief that the Bible permits women to serve as deacons and pastors is an "aberrant view of Scripture."

"It's not an aberrant view," countered trustee Paul Stam Jr. of North Carolina. "It's not a disqualifying view. It's a different view. I can take you to conservative evangelical churches that do it (ordain women)."

Academic personnel committee chairman Richard White of Tennessee said the candidates have solidly conservative credentials. Trustees, he said, should not expect unanimity at every point, adding the women's ordination issue should not be a "test of fellowship."

Miller, however, asked, "Why should we be satisfied with men who are 95 percent correct when there are men across this convention who are 100 percent correct on every point?"

Trustee Jerry Johnson of Colorado noted that Baptists hold differing biblical interpretations regarding the role of women in the church. "B. H. Carroll (founding president of Southwestern Seminary) had women deacons and if we could raise him from the dead I would like to make him a faculty member."

Trustee Don Graham of Alabama warned against "establishing such a precedent" of electing faculty members who favor women's ordination. "This bothers me and I think it's time for somebody to be bothered," he said.

Several trustees expressed their personal opposition to women's ordination while voicing support for the new faculty members. Later in the meeting, trustees passed a resolution by a 23-14 margin which stated that "no action of this board should be construed as an endorsement of women in the role of pastor or deacon."

Following the meeting, Honeycutt said he was impressed many trustees were willing to set aside personal viewpoints in a spirit of cooperation. "Trustees came through this meeting with a strong show of support for the covenant," he said.

In addition to professors elected by the board, trustees received a report that Mark A. Seifrid, an adjunct professor at Wheaton College, and Mary Alice Seals, an administrator in Southern's school of church music, had received three-year presidential appointments to faculty positions. Seifrid, who holds advanced degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Princeton Theological Seminary, will be assistant professor of New Testament. Seals, who earned advanced degrees at Southern Seminary, will be assistant professor of church music.

In other action, trustees:

- voted to move from one to two board meetings annually.
- endorsed formation of a 21st Century Mission Plan to involve trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni in a review of the seminary's mission statement.
- approved a \$15.8 million budget for fiscal year 1992-93 which includes a 3 percent salary increase for faculty and staff.

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-- named the new campus center the "Roy L. and June Honeycutt Campus Center" in honor of Honeycutt's 10th anniversary as president.

-- increased student matriculation fees from \$475 to \$550 per semester.

-- re-elected Wayne Allen of Tennessee as chairman, Larry Adams of Oklahoma as first vice chairman, Charles Carter of Georgia as second vice chairman and John Hicks of Kentucky as secretary.

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Evangelicals give more to charity,  
Virginia university study reports

By Louis Moore

Baptist Press  
5/1/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--A recent study has revealed that Evangelical denominations give more money to charity than mainline Protestants.

The study, jointly conducted by the Villars Committee on Relief and Development and the Center for Survey Research of the University of Virginia, was released in March. Noted University of Virginia sociologist James Davison Hunter described the survey as "an utterly fair-minded, probing and even path-breaking study of a central part of the evangelical life and culture, the mission of Christian relief and development -- and in particular, the study of the opinions of the constituency who financially support it and in whose name it is undertaken." Southern Baptists are included in the survey as Evangelicals.

The national survey polled more than 1,000 persons who would describe themselves in some sense by the term "Evangelical." Eighty-seven percent believe the Bible is "the unerring Word of God." Ninety-one percent believe "Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully Man." Ninety-five percent believe personal faith in Jesus Christ is the only hope for salvation. The sample was spread broadly across a range of Protestant denominations; only 2 percent were Catholic. Seventy-eight percent of the respondents said they gave at least 10 percent of their annual income to charity and more than 60 percent had given to Christian relief and development agencies within the past year.

Hunter said, "According to data gathered by the National Council of Churches, evangelical denominations give the same percent of their income toward 'benevolences' as the mainline denominations (despite the latter's stated concern for the poor and disenfranchised). But since evangelicals tend to give so much more to charity than liberal Protestants, the actual amount of money given to 'benevolences' is much greater. This survey confirms this fact, showing that better than 8 out of 10 give more than 5 percent of their income to charity; better than 4 in 10 give more than 10 percent of their income."

According to the survey, evangelicals attach a high priority to the problem of helping the poor around the world. When asked to rate seven different global and domestic problems on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, the problem ranked most important was "helping poor people in our own cities and towns in America." Helping the poor around the world, abortion and pornography rated nearly as highly. The environment, minority rights and prison reform fell lower on the scale.

When asked to name Christian relief and development agencies with which they were familiar, evangelicals ranked World Vision the highest, with Compassion International, Christian Children's Fund and World Relief following.

Eighty-one percent of the respondents to the survey felt emergency relief workers for a Christian agency "should make a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ." Eighty-six percent felt that, while distributing food and emergency supplies, Christian workers "should also work actively to spread the gospel and convert people to Christian faith." At the same time, 92 percent affirmed Christian agencies should not stay out of countries whose governments do not allow preaching or witnessing.

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Eighty-seven percent of those surveyed indicated they believed the ultimate goal of long-term development projects "should be to spread the gospel and convert people to Christian faith." The survey reveals evangelicals place a strong emphasis on Christian distinctiveness both in terms of who does relief projects and why.

"This study dispels a couple of popular myths" said Ben Mitchell, director of biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "First, the study clearly demonstrates hunger, poverty and relief are priority items on the evangelical agenda. Second, the study demonstrates evangelicals are willing to put their money where their hearts are. For too long now, liberal and moderate Christians have tried to divide up the social-issue territory. They have said evangelicals are only interested in abortion and pornography while liberal Christians are interested in hunger, world peace and justice. The survey shows that such 'turging' is clearly wrongheaded. Evangelicals care very deeply about human suffering and needs and are actively involved in doing something about it."

The Report of the National Survey of Evangelicals on Relief and Development is available by writing to Stewardship Journal, P. O. Box 660, Powhatan, Va. 23139.

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First Project Brotherhood workers  
pack food, weather delays

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
5/1/92

MOSCOW (BP)--If success of a volunteer mission trip to Russia is measured by accomplishment of its stated purpose, then the mission of the first team of volunteers for Project Brotherhood should be termed a failure.

But: If the measure is volunteers seeing confirmation of the need for their mission, gaining new insights about the Russian people and culture and returning home with a desire for continuing involvement in missions, then the experience of the five volunteers from Tennessee and Michigan should be considered successful.

"This first team experienced the typical start-up frustrations in an international response," said Douglas Beggs, vice president of program services for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. "Still, they used their time wisely and established an operation that eventually will feed 40,000 families."

In the first full week of food repackaging, after the first team departed, the second and third teams had processed almost two tons, according to Beggs.

Project Brotherhood is an effort to package and distribute food in the Commonwealth of Independent States. At the request of the Baptist World Alliance, volunteer teams enlisted by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and state convention Baptist Men's departments depart at weekly intervals for two-week stints.

In 12 days in Moscow, April 12-24, the first team of volunteers spent only three days on work related to distribution of food to the people of Moscow, the purpose of their trip.

Unloading supplies and setting up the warehouse occupied one day during their first week. The second week, after the arrival of a second team of five from Missouri and Tennessee, they spent one day unloading 994 110-pound bags-52 tons-of rice and flour, and one day packaging the items in one- and two-pound sacks before returning April 24 to the United States.

The remainder of their time they spent sightseeing, passing out tracts, attending services at the Moscow Baptist Church and meeting Russian people. They witnessed spiraling inflation first-hand as fuel prices quadrupled in one day during their stay.

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Packaging of the food by American and Russian Baptist volunteers will continue with the first distribution now planned about May 5, after the arrival of beans, butter oil, vegetable oil and powdered milk.

Despite the delays, volunteers termed their experiences enlightening, cited the needs of the Russian people for the food and said they would volunteer again for future projects.

"I described working in Iran last fall as three weeks of frustrations and miracles. This started out the same way," said Dennis Quinn, an electrician from St. Peters, Mo., who with his wife Jennefer serve as volunteer coordinators for Project Brotherhood until June 25.

"I think I was trying to work in my schedule instead of the Lord's," he added. "If we had had the food last week, we couldn't have unloaded it ourselves with just one team. I'm finding out the Lord is right again."

Fred Kinsey, the first volunteer for Project Brotherhood and a machine repair leader with Ford Motor Co. from Monroe, Mich., said: "I think we did a lot, just passing out tracts. Maybe that's what the Lord had in mind for us to do."

Kinsey, a member of Monroe Missionary Baptist Church, said the highlight of his first trip overseas was helping to unload sacks of food with Anatoly, a Russian Baptist.

"He would come up and pull my sleeve and say, 'You and me.' Then we would load up the bags. It was good to see Russians and Americans working together. I made a lot of friends."

Kinsey, who plans to retire at the end of 1992, said he wants to participate in more mission projects in the future.

Lawson Newman, a retired executive and member of Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tenn., described his first overseas mission trip as "enlightening." He said he was surprised at the low living standards, the deterioration of the buildings and the weak infrastructure of the Russian economy.

Newman, who also plans to participate in a mission trip to Venezuela later this year, said he wished "we had had food earlier and had the opportunity to deliver the food."

Based on his experiences, Newman proposed linking Southern Baptist and Russian Baptist churches in some form of relationship that could include financial assistance and visits by Russian Baptists to U.S. churches and Southern Baptists to Russian churches. "Not only would this be a great spiritual experience for both sides, but personal contact by many more Americans with Russians. This would deliver a great testimony by Russians back to Moscow of our love for people everywhere," Newman said.

Mark Lassiter, managing partner of the Memphis, Tenn., office of Price Waterhouse accounting firm and a member of Germantown Baptist Church, said he regretted not being able to distribute food. However, he said he hopes Project Brotherhood will provide a ministry to the physical needs of people. "By meeting those needs, I hope the people will be open to the witness of Russian Baptists."

Pat Still, a property management consultant from Nashville and a member of Clearview Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., said he was moved by the desperate financial needs of the people and "the sadness on their faces."

"When you tell them about Christ, they want to know more," said Still, who witnessed one-on-one to eight people and saw six of them accept Christ as Savior.



Still said he hopes to return to Moscow in October for the Billy Graham evangelistic crusade and to talk further with a man who said he wants to become a believer.

"I have never seen people more completely open to the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

George Lozuk, Southern Baptist foreign missionary in Moscow, said people in the Russian capital are struggling to survive as prices rise daily. For example, a loaf of bread which cost 20 kopeks in 1991 now costs three to five rubles. "Buying meat is almost out of the question," he said.

The food packages will not solve economic woes but they will provide an "important extra," he said.

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(BP) photos mailed by the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Moscow scientist receives  
clothes and salvation

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
5/1/92

MOSCOW (BP)--A letter written in a moment of desperation by a Russian scientist to a medical doctor he had never met in the United States led to the Russian's receipt of a suitcase of clothes and the gospel of Christ.

"I address to you with unusual request in Russian crisis and big inflation now. My pay salary will not suffice even on nourishment for my family," wrote Anatoley Zhukov, a researcher in the lipid biochemistry unit of the Institute of Plant Physiology at the Moscow Academy of Sciences.

Zhukov addressed his letter to Dewey Dunn, a physician at Veterans Hospital in Nashville and an active member of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, an organization which encourages involvement in missions by Southern Baptist physicians and dentists, based at Brotherhood Commission offices in Memphis, Tenn. Zhukov had Dunn's name as a result of Dunn's request for a copy of an article by Zhukov.

"Can't you and your colleagues render any food, money or old clothes (to provide) help for my family?" Zhukov continued. "If I can render to you some (time a turn), I ready fulfill it. Beforehand, thank you."

When Dunn learned Nashvillian Pat Still would be leaving April 11 for Moscow, he packed a suitcase of warm clothes and medicines for Zhukov.

"We packed one suitcase of clothes and some medicine like those for ulcer, infection, hypertension, bowel constipation and skin problems," Dunn wrote to Zhukov in a letter carried by Still. "This should be given to a doctor or pharmacist who can use them for appropriate persons who need these, including your family."

Through an interpreter, Still, a layman from Clearview Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., contacted Zhukov April 20. The bespectacled, 47-year-old scientist arrived one hour later at the Rossiya Hotel.

He brought copies of articles he had written on polar lipids and soybeans that had been translated into English.

Zhukov said his monthly salary of 1,700 rubles, along with his wife's income, supported them, their two children and his in-laws, with whom he shares a four-room flat near the institute. He also helps to support two elderly women.

"For the last five years we cannot afford to buy any clothes at all," Zhukov said. Also, fruit is "beyond our means."

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When Still asked Zhukov if he had been "born again," Zhukov, not understanding the question, replied, "I think all people of Russia are being reborn."

As Still explained being born again meant one had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Zhukov replied, "I wish I could be born again. I would like Jesus in my heart."

After Still outlined the plan of salvation, asked Zhukov to read John 3:16 from a Russian Bible and explained that a person must confess his sins and ask Christ to come into his heart and give him the gift of salvation, Zhukov prayed and asked God for salvation.

"Let everything we have been talking about take place in my life," said Zhukov after concluding his prayer and wiping tears from his eyes.

Zhukov invited Still to return with him to the institute to see his lab. The two took turns carrying the suitcase to the subway station.

On the way, Zhukov asked, "How can I be baptized?"

Still told him about the Moscow Baptist Church, encouraged him to take his family there the next Sunday, gave him money for the subway and promised to return with a Bible.

The next day, Still and Southern Baptist missionary George Lozuk took a Bible to Zhukov, who met them outside the institute. The three spent an hour in Lozuk's van discussing Zhukov's new relationship with the Lord, showing him how to use the Bible.

"I agree with you it was God's will for you to bring these things (clothes)," Zhukov told Still.

Grateful for his new faith, Zhukov nevertheless remained pessimistic about the economic future he and his family face.

"For the nearest five years, we shall have no future," he said. "If we don't starve, we shall probably live in miserable poverty. Then probably we shall start moving forward."

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(BP) photos mailed by the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Commentary:  
Of Fear and Freedom

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
5/1/92

MOSCOW (BP)--If the price of a loaf of bread increased from 20 cents to three dollars in one year while your salary remained the same, could you continue to live within your budget?

Or what if fuel prices quadrupled in one day?

Those are only two of the realities with which the people of Russia are struggling. Salaries that only months ago seemed adequate now barely pay the food bills. And inflation continues unabated.

I heard more talk of fear than freedom during two weeks in Moscow in April as part of Project Brotherhood.

The hunger that grips Moscow is not the kind of starvation that immobilized Ethiopia and The Sudan. Food is available. The crisis at hand is the ability to pay for it. Images such as a line of people outside the Moscow Baptist Church waiting for free chicken legs are etched in memory.

But there also is another kind of hunger in Moscow -- a hunger for the gospel.

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Many people almost seem to be waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus. Perhaps it is the new freedom to talk about faith or the desperation of their life circumstances. Two weeks is not enough time to understand the dynamics of life there.

But I saw people work their way through the crowds packed into the Moscow Baptist Church to respond to the invitation of the gospel.

I saw a scientist tell my husband he wanted Jesus to come and live in his heart even before the plan of salvation had been fully outlined. I saw the tears in his eyes as he prayed to receive Christ as his Savior.

I saw two young adults listen intently as they learned how to become Christians. Then they joined hands and prayed for eternal life in Christ.

That the fields are white unto harvest seems an understatement.

Project Brotherhood, which continues for several months, will provide both physical and spiritual food to hungry people.

Evangelical Christian groups are sending youth to the Commonwealth of Independent States to witness in the schools.

Southern Baptist volunteers traveling to Russia to start churches will have the joy of helping fellow believers, including many new converts, plant their lives and grow their faith.

That Billy Graham plans an evangelistic crusade in Moscow in October is certainly no accident in God's timing.

If Christian people in America do not go and give and pray that thousands, even millions, of Russian people will be touched with the gospel in the coming months, we will surely fail to walk through a door which God has opened wide.

Is it possible that the land of Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great, of Lenin and Stalin, of blood and battlefields, of Gorbachev and Yeltsin, could become one of the great Christian nations of the world?

The opportunity, undreamed of such a short time ago, lies before us. The people are waiting. Are we equal to the task?

(EDITORS: Linda Lawson served with the first Project Brotherhood team in Moscow.)

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Complaint brings processing  
changes for Brazil volunteers

By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press  
5/1/92

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A complaint filed against a short-term team of Southern Baptist volunteers to Brazil has increased government processing requirements for future Southern Baptist volunteers there.

The team of medical and construction volunteers spent about 10 days this spring helping Brazilian Baptists conduct medical clinics and build churches.

After the volunteers had returned home, an association of Brazilian physicians filed a petition with government officials protesting the team's activities. The association disapproved of the volunteers' working in Brazil on tourist visas, said Ronald Wilson, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director for Brazil and the Caribbean.

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Following the complaint, Brazilian government officials denied visa renewals for a Southern Baptist volunteer couple unrelated to the team. The couple, also in Brazil on tourist visas, had been assisting Brazilian Baptists in another city. The couple will seek another volunteer assignment through the Foreign Mission Board outside Brazil.

After these incidents, government officials easily could have said "no more volunteers (in Brazil)," Wilson said. Instead, they have expressed a willingness to work with Southern Baptists.

"We have a very good history in Brazil of following the legal guidelines," said Wilson of Foreign Mission Board personnel there. That's why he believes government officials were willing to work closely with mission board leaders to "prevent future problems from developing."

Brazilian officials have issued new procedures to follow to avoid further misunderstandings surrounding volunteers, Wilson said. The procedures require the board to provide a variety of information on volunteers and their activities well in advance of their arrival in Brazil. Some information requested by government officials includes the names and passport data of all volunteers, names of all organizations involved, volunteers' arrival and departure dates and specifics about their activities.

Foreign Mission Board leaders plan to "abide by these (new government guidelines) to the letter . . .," Wilson said. "We recognize that when we go as volunteers to other countries, we're the guests of the people there, so we want to fully abide by any information they request."

Wilson urged all Baptists volunteers to Brazil to do the same, whether they go independently or in conjunction with the Foreign Mission Board. "We encourage anyone going to Brazil to be aware of what the (Brazilian) immigration system is, to abide by the law as it is prescribed and not to take any short-cuts," he said.

Baptist volunteers going independently to Brazil could obtain such information through the U.S. State Department or through the Brazilian federal police in the area they visit, Wilson said.

No future volunteer projects in Brazil have been canceled as a result of the change, he added. However, mission board leaders are "reviewing and evaluating our use of volunteers (in Brazil). We don't see the situation changing radically but we're going to work from a basis of strategy and priority on the use of volunteers there."

A group of 17 Southern Baptist medical volunteers were to leave for Fortaleza, Brazil, on April 30. They will spend about 10 days helping local Baptists conduct medical clinics there.

Last year 1,708 volunteers assisted Brazilian Baptists and missionaries in Brazil. Currently the mission board has five partnerships linking Southern Baptists with Brazilian Baptists. They are South Carolina Baptists and the city of Rio de Janeiro; North Carolina Baptists and the city of Sao Paulo; Birmingham (Ala.) Baptist Association and Brasilia; Texas Baptists and the National (home) Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention; and Kentucky Baptists and the state of Espirito Santo.

Volunteers are involved in a variety of activities in Brazil but evangelism undergirds all they do. During the recent project that drew criticism from some Brazilian physicians, volunteers helped lead evangelistic services where nearly 400 people accepted Christ as Savior. Several volunteers and Brazilian Baptists followed up by visiting all the new converts in their homes, reported one team member.

Local Brazilians "received us in a wonderful way," the volunteer said. "I've never seen quite the response we saw there -- the kindnesses, the courtesies people showed us."

**Historical Commission elects  
first woman chairman**

By Dianne Shaw Casolaro

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Marlene Rikard, a Samford University history professor, was elected chair of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission April 27 during the joint annual meeting of the commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society in Birmingham.

Rikard, a member of Shades Crest Baptist Church in Birmingham, is the first woman to hold the position. Slayden Yarbrough of Oklahoma was elected vice-chair and Johanna Dawson of New Mexico, recording secretary.

Rikard said she accepted the position because she has found the Historical Commission's staff to be "one of the most hardworking, creative groups of people I have ever worked with."

Among programs coordinated by the Historical Commission are production of materials for local churches on preserving history, documenting Baptist life by collecting and preserving materials and helping researchers interested in religion.

The Historical Commission is elected by the convention and the Southern Baptist Historical Society is an organization open to anyone interested in history.

Rikard begins her eighth year as Alabama's representative to the Historical Commission in June and therefore will not be eligible for re-election. There is a two-term limit for commission trustees.

In addition to her duties as history professor, Rikard directs the university's London studies program. She is a graduate of Auburn University and received her master's degree from Samford and doctorate from the University of Alabama. She has been at Samford 21 years.

Rikard said she hopes to assist the professional staff in continuing its work and to provide support as the commission and other SBC agencies deal with budget constraints from decreasing Cooperative Program donations while demands for work increases.

"World Missions: Two Centuries of Baptist Achievement" was the theme for the annual meeting. Though normally held in Nashville, Birmingham was this year's site at the request of Samford University, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary, and Woman's Missionary Union, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the modern missionary movement.

Activities included presentations of scholarly papers and dramatic performances on missions. About 250 people attended.

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**Baptist communicators top  
interfaith awards competition**

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press  
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MINNEAPOLIS (BP)--Baptist communicators led all other competitors, winning 22 of 70 awards presented in the annual DeRose/Hinkhouse Awards of the Religious Public Relations Council.

Other top winners included Roman Catholics with 10 awards followed by Presbyterians and Lutherans with seven each in the competition of the international, interfaith organization of religious communicators.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., with 10 awards, and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., with five, led the Baptist contingent. Bethel College and Seminary, a Baptist General Conference school in St. Paul, Minn., won three awards.

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Other Southern Baptist winners were the Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., with two, and the Executive Committee in Nashville, and the Missouri Baptist Convention in Jefferson City, Mo., with one each.

The Baptist awards included three major awards -- two newly-inaugurated Shoestring Awards to Frank Wm. White of the Sunday School Board and a special citation for writing to eight Foreign Mission Board writers for coverage of the Persian Gulf War. The mission board writers are Mike Creswell, Erich Bridges, Mike Chute, Mary Speidel, Donald Martin, Bob Stanley, Terry McMahon and Art Toalston (now at Baptist Press in Nashville).

White won the two Shoestring Awards for the Sunday School Board's Facts and Trends magazine and for a perspective he wrote on the Persian Gulf War while serving as a military chaplain in Saudi Arabia. The Shoestring Award is given for excellence in the use of a limited budget.

Other Sunday School Board awards went to Jim Veneman, first and second places in photography, and David Haywood, second place for a national public relations campaign.

The Foreign Mission Board awards included four other writing awards and five broadcast awards. Writing awards went to Chute, first place for a feature series and second place for a feature story; Martin, first place for news coverage; and Creswell, second place for feature writing. Two broadcast awards went to the FMB audiovisual staff, first place for TV special and second place for TV series and one second place each to McMahon, Tom Scott and Trish Landers for other TV broadcast or audiovisual entries.

Other Southern Baptist individual winners were Mark Coppenger of the Executive Committee, first place for a brochure; Philip Poole of Missouri Baptists, second place for a newsletter; and Stan Hill of the Woman's Missionary Union, second place for a video tape. The other WMU award went to the agency's communications group in the booklet category.

Awards to Bethel College and Seminary went to Sherie J. Lindvall, first place for an advertisement and two second places in the magazine and poster categories.

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