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May 22, 1992

92-88

SBC anti-hunger convocation

set for May 1993 at Ridgecrest

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP)--Representatives of five Southern Baptist agencies with responsibilities for ministering to the world's hungry have called for a major denomination-wide hunger convocation in May 1993 to discuss the future of Southern Baptist work with the world's hungry.

"The purpose of the meeting is to assess where Southern Baptists are now on the issue and to identify strategies for the future," the group said in a statement.

"We want to work toward a coordinated, unified strategy in this area," the agency representatives agreed.

Participants also said the convocation should lay to rest unfounded rumors the new conservative leadership in the convention is not interested in the world's hungry. Concern for the world's hungry is neither a moderate nor a conservative issue but should be a concern of all Southern Baptists, the group agreed.

The 1993 date was chosen for the meeting because it marks the 15th anniversary since a 1978 convocation in which current Southern Baptist strategy on world hunger was begun.

The convocation will be May 6-8, 1993, at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina.

C. Ben Mitchell, Christian Life Commission director of bio-medical and life issues was named ad hoc chairperson of the meeting. Louis A. Moore, the CLC's director of media and product development, was appointed ad hoc media coordinator.

The decision to call for the convocation grew out of a smaller hunger consultation at the CLC's Nashville office May 20. Eight representatives from the five agencies attended the meeting: John Cheyne of the Foreign Mission Board, Nathan Porter of the Home Mission Board, Dellanna O'Brien of Woman's Missionary Union, James Williams of the Brotherhood Commission and Richard D. Land, Ben Mitchell, Louis Moore, Lamar Cooper and Mattie Lee Massey of the CLC.

According to action taken at the Nashville meeting, each participating agency will appoint representatives to serve on an ad hoc committee to oversee the convocation. Efforts will be made to widen representation to include other SBC agencies and the six SBC seminaries.

Participants said their hope is to garner the widest possible Southern Baptist support within the denomination for the convocation.

Since 1974, when Southern Baptists first began collecting hunger gifts, the annual amount has grown from \$299,925 to more than \$7.8 million in 1991. Hunger gifts peaked in 1985 when more than \$11.8 million was raised. In recent years the gifts have leveled off at about \$7.7 million.

Consultation participants said they hope the convocation will energize SBC giving for hunger.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

Baptist Book Stores deny  
author's censorship charge

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP)--According to Ed Decker, his book "What You Need To Know About ... Masons" has been banned in Baptist Book Stores.

However, Bill Graham, manager of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's bookstore division, said, "I don't call it censorship."

Graham said the book, released earlier this year, was never ordered for all 62 Baptist bookstores and, for a time, was stocked by only three stores. "We don't stock everything that is available," Graham said, noting countless books are on the market. But Baptist bookstores will order the book if it is requested by a customer, he said.

Johnnie Godwin, SSB vice president of general publishing, wrote in a letter to the publisher of Decker's book, Harvest House in Eugene, Ore., that an analysis of the book pointing out "inaccuracies and implications" led to a decision not to carry it.

Godwin cited a Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission five-page response to Decker's book mailed to state Baptist convention leaders. The Brotherhood mailing took issue with the book's references to the commission's "Royal Ambassadors" program for boys.

In his book, Decker, an Assemblies of God church member, cites parallels between Masonic rituals and RA initiations in a 1988 edition of "Royal Ambassador Ceremonies, Dramas and Recognitions." Decker contends Masonic rituals will have "a familiar spirit" to boys in later life, making them far less wary of joining a Masonic lodge.

Decker, who contends Freemasonry is occultic, has issued a 17-page response to the Brotherhood mailing. He concludes by claiming, "The fumes of hell are seeping into the SBC on the winds of Freemasonry, and devout Baptists are not going to let this issue die."

James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, issued a statement to Baptist Press noting, "In the content and curriculum of Royal Ambassadors there is no intention to involve boys in the rituals of Freemasonry."

Beyond leading boys' to Christ, Williams said, the RA program "is built upon our desire and assignment to: 1) teach missions; 2) involve boys in missions activities; 3) help boys develop a sense of personal ministry; 4) lead boys to pray for and give to missions; and 5) undergird the work of the church and denomination."

Williams added, "A large majority of active male missionaries cite Royal Ambassadors as a primary influence on their call to missions."

The Brotherhood mailing regarding Decker's book notes that a 1990 edition of the RA ceremonies booklet no longer contains two of the initiations Decker targeted.

Decker's charge of being "banned" in Baptist bookstores appears in the latest issue of the newsletter of Saints Alive in Jesus, his independent ministry based in Issaquah, Wash. The newsletter claims "this is the first time" a Christian group has banned one of Decker's books.

"Well, it's one thing to be banned in the (Mormon-owned) Deseret Book stores," Decker comments, "but an entirely new experience to be banned in all the Southern Baptist Book Stores in the country." (Decker is a former Mormon and co-author of a widely known anti-Mormon book, "The God Makers," which also was made into a film.)

In his 17-page response to the Brotherhood Commission, Decker also refers to Baptist Book Stores, stating, "It's hard to believe that these Christian brethren are now banning a legitimate Christian book instead of dealing with the issues it raises."

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Graham said Baptist Book Stores are not carrying Decker's book "because of its misleading mixture of fact and fiction. SBC institutions, programs and individuals are placed in situations in a way that does not distinguish fact from fiction for the reader."

Although titled "What You Need To Know About ... Masons," Decker's book is a novel, centering on a young seminary graduate, "Jeff Moore," and his wife, "Jennifer," who move to "Badger Lake," Mont., where he becomes pastor of his wife's home church.

The Southern Baptist pastor accepts an invitation to join the local Masonic lodge led by his father-in-law. But the next day the pastor is confronted by a church member who declares, "I pray to God, Jeff, that you don't die and have to face the wrath of a righteous and holy God in your present state of idolatry and sin!"

The pastor begins to rethink his Masonic membership after seeing a Royal Ambassador initiation ceremony in his church and counseling with his father, also a pastor.

After the pastor publicly renounces his lodge membership, a church board controlled by his father-in-law and other Masons dismisses him as pastor. However, other church members succeed in calling a special congregational meeting to reverse the board's decision. Police are called to help keep the meeting in order and strife over the issue quickly spills into the community, including the arson of a hardware store of a member who has opposed Masonic influence in the church.

Graham said among Sunday School Board criteria for stocking a book are its consistency with Scripture and with programs of the SSB and other denominational entities and whether it promotes fellowship within local Southern Baptist churches.

"Baptist Book Stores do carry some books on Freemasonry," Graham said. "However, the selection varies among stores since books on this topic are not among the standardized stock nationwide."

Decker, in an interview with Baptist Press, said, "I don't apologize for the book" or for pointing out similarities between Masonic ritual and several RA ceremonies.

The aim of the book is being achieved, he said. "I've had hundreds of letters, most of them from Baptist men, who have read the book and said I'm getting out of Freemasonry, I'm serving Jesus Christ and him alone."

Decker said he used a Southern Baptist setting for his novel because, in eight to 10 situations in which he personally has worked with church struggles with Freemasonry over periods of several months to several years, all but one have been SBC churches. The arson of a hardware store, for example, occurred in a Texas town a number of years ago, he said.

The Brotherhood Commission, in its national mailing, seeks to clarify that the two remaining initiation ceremonies comprise only a small part of "Royal Ambassador Ceremonies, Dramas and Recognitions." Williams told Baptist Press the ceremonies "are not a necessary or integral part" of the RA program and were "introduced at a time when initiation ceremonies were a very popular part of boys' organizations."

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Charles Willis of Baptist Press' Sunday School Board bureau contributed to this story.

Anti-Mason author to delete  
reference to Jimmy Draper

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press  
5/22/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--James T. Draper Jr.'s name is being taken out of a controversial book on Freemasonry, the book's author, Ed Decker, told Baptist Press.

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In the first printing of "What You Need To Know About ... Masons" earlier this year, Decker wrote that Draper, while president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1982-84, "was a Mason."

The book does not mention that Draper resigned as a Mason in 1984. Draper, then a pastor in suburban Dallas-Fort Worth, now is president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The reference to Draper sparked a firestorm of complaint against his book, Decker acknowledged.

It "was never meant by me to be a slur against Jimmy Draper," Decker said.

Decker, of Issaquah, Wash., said he considers Draper "as a hero, not as a villain for taking the only stand that a true man of God would take" concerning membership in a Masonic lodge: He resigned his membership.

Decker's book, published by Harvest House of Eugene, Ore., is now in its second printing.

Draper has acknowledged becoming a Mason as a pastor in the late 1960s and serving as lodg chaplain for a year. He said he became inactive when he moved but continued paying dues to lodges in communities where he was a minister. He said he resigned his membership in 1984 after a Christian who had researched Masonry confronted him with some of its teachings.

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Protesters accuse Chicago church  
of violating discrimination statute By Ferrell Foster

Baptist Press  
5/22/92

CHICAGO (BP)--The Chicago Commission on Human Relations has begun an investigation of Armitage Baptist Church as the result of complaints that it discriminated against three homosexual men and women.

Craig Teichen, Tamara Fraser and William Susinka filed separate complaints regarding a disturbance at the church Easter Sunday that led to the arrest of seven people identified with Queer Nation and a gay newspaper.

Armitage pastor Charles Lyons called the complaints "baseless and heterophobic silliness."

The Illinois Baptist, newsjournal of the Illinois Baptist Convention, obtained a copy of Teichen's complaint. The pastor said the three complaints were "basically the same."

Teichen charged that he and the others were thrown out of the church and the police were called "due to our sexual orientation and perceived disability" -- the latter referring to AIDS.

The church has submitted a response to the Human Relations Commission but the church's attorney advised that it not be released to the news media.

Lyons, however, offered his own verbal response in a telephone interview. "We knew who they were and we welcomed them in," said the pastor of the inner-city church. "We have practicing homosexuals attend our services regularly and we have people testing HIV positive attending regularly, and in neither case are they denied access to the services of this church, much less ejected."

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Lyons said the people were ejected because they were being disruptive. Teichen could not be reached by telephone.

The church and pastor are accused of violating the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance in regard to discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Kelly Sander, the CCHR officer assigned to the case, did not recall such a complaint being made against a church before. "I was surprised at it, as a matter of fact," Sander said in a telephone interview.

Now that the church's attorney has responded to the complaint, Sander will visit the church as part of the investigation. She hopes to "speak to some of the parishioners who were there that day and to the pastor."

The commission then will notify the church within 210 days, "unless impractical," whether there is substantial evidence of a violation of the Human Rights Ordinance, according to the official notification sent to the church.

If such evidence is found, CCHR will schedule a formal "Conciliation Conference" with the two parties, the document states. If no settlement is reached, an administrative hearing will be held.

Sander said about 12 or 13 sexual orientation complaints are filed with CCHR annually. She said Teichen had been involved in a similar complaint against a Chicago nightclub last August.

The church's pastor called the complaint "unbelievable."

"It demonstrates the vulnerability we have under today's laws," Lyons said. "They do not protect seemingly the average law-abiding citizen. The law is being used as a weapon against us."

"The frightening aspect of this is we were minding our own business on our own property," the pastor said. "They invade us, they attempt to disrupt us, ... we have them arrested and the complaints are lodged against us. Unbelievable."

The church, however, is taking the matter seriously.

"Because we do not know if this is a flea or a hornets' nest, we are going to treat it as a hornets' nest," Lyons said. "We can't take for granted that this thing will fall on its face, as silly as it is."

"We're going to come out with both barrels loaded."

The situation is requiring the church staff to expend a "tremendous amount of time," Lyons said. "We are basically shielding the congregation from the day-to-day grind of this. ... We're trying to keep the congregation informed without making this a focus."

"People in the church are praying for these folks."

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Oklahoma CLC addresses  
Brown, homosexuality

By Dave Parker

Baptist Press  
5/22/92

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--"Murphy Brown" and homosexuality were topics of discussion and action at the meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's Christian Life Committee May 21.

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The committee sent letters supporting Vice President Dan Quayle for his stance against Murphy Brown, a popular situation comedy carried on CBS Monday nights, and passed a resolution calling for the BGCO board of directors to address the homosexual issue.

The committee addresses issues of moral concern for the BGCO. It has authority to make recommendations but messengers to the annual meeting of the convention can choose to act on or ignore any recommendations.

Quayle came under fire by the media and women's rights advocates for his remarks against Murphy Brown, played by actress Candace Bergen. In the TV show, Bergen's character was impregnated by her ex-husband; after considering abortion, she decided to keep the baby and raise it as a single mother.

Quayle criticized the show for glorifying extramarital sex and said society's problems -- such as the riots in south central Los Angeles -- were due in part to the large numbers of children being raised without supervision in single-parent homes.

Wade Burleson, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, said the committee. "Felt like Dan Quayle put his finger on the very reason why there are problems in south central Los Angeles and in other urban communities."

"We do not believe federal dollars will ever resolve the issue. The fundamental problem is the breakdown of the family and when Murphy Brown portrays sex outside marriage and the volitional choice to not marry, though pregnant ... we believe something is wrong.

"We appreciate the fact that abortion was not used on the show," Burleson noted. "And we do appreciate the fact that many single-parent families are that way due to no choice of their own. But we are adamantly opposed to the portrayal of Murphy Brown as an ideal situation. We believe that is what Dan Quayle was saying."

He said the committee mailed letters to Quayle, President George Bush, Democratic Party chairman Ron Brown, Republican Party chairman Richard Bond, as well as presidential candidates Bill Clinton and Ross Perot.

On the issue of homosexuality, Burleson said Oklahoma has not yet faced the problem being dealt with in North Carolina, where one church licensed a homosexual to preach and another church held a "union ceremony" for two homosexuals. But he said the committee felt a contingency plan was needed if the issue ever comes up, so it asked the board of directors to discuss the issue at its September meeting and report to the annual state convention in November.

"Our goal is to issue a strong statement against homosexuality before we really have a problem in Oklahoma and to anticipate a proper biblical response if we ever have to deal with the matter," Burleson said. "What's our recourse? If a church in Oklahoma should ordain a homosexual, what could we do? We are looking at not seating messengers and not receiving their money."

Such a response, similar to one passed in Louisiana, would not interfere with the autonomy of the local church, Burleson said.

"A church can do whatever it desires," Burleson said. "We are not telling churches they cannot ordain homosexuals. We have no authority to do that. However, we cooperate with each other and the majority of Oklahoma Baptists would not desire to cooperate with churches that are ordaining homosexuals."

Christians have answer  
for U.S., Rogers, Dobson say

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP)--Christians have the solution for the United States' grave problems, Adrian Rogers and James Dobson both told a capacity crowd in a congressional office building on the annual National Day of Prayer.

The answer for the country's woes is not in the hands of philosophers or politicians but in the hands of "the man of God, the woman of God, the people of God," said Rogers, former three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"America needs to be given truth and when we're given the truth ... and pray it in, interceding, lifting up our voice, we're going to see something very wonderful happen in America."

Bible-believing Christians cannot depend on their friends in government to win a "civil war of values," Dobson said. He said he had visited some Washington officials in recent days who share traditional, biblical values. "They're discouraged," he said. "They're despondent. They're depressed. They feel hated. The media is on their backs. If they ever needed us, it is now. We really can't count on them to make the difference.

"(Prayer) is the answer. This is the solution, for us to take that to the name of the Lord ... and I believe he's going to hear that prayer and I believe it's going to sweep from here around the world."

The culture "can go either way," said Dobson, popular author and president of Focus on the Family.

America's war of values "is a fight to the death between two incompatible world views, two perspectives on the world that simply will not mesh together because at the core the difference between them is the issue of whether God is and whether he lives on the one hand and whether he does not on the other," he said.

Both sides realize "children are the prize to the winner and children are the key to victory," Dobson said.

Though truth never dies, Rogers said, it has fallen in the United States primarily because it has been "chloroformed by liberal, Bible-doubting preachers."

There is not enough time to eliminate all the false philosophies and sinful snares in the United States, Rogers said. Instead, he said, Christians' greatest responsibility is "lifting up the truth." They should exalt the Lord Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit through proclamation of the Word of God, he said.

It must be done in a "spirit of repentance and prayer," said Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis. "I don't know how long we have left, but ... I pray God will give us space to repent."

Rogers, who used Isaiah 59 as the text, said Christians' prayers are not answered for the same reason Israel's prayers were not. "The prophet Isaiah says that sin has put a barrier between the prayers of God's people and a holy God," Rogers said.

He decried the abortion of millions of unborn children, saying, "And we cry and say, 'God bless America.' It's a wonder he doesn't blot us off the face of the earth."

After his message, Rogers led the group in a time of repentance for personal and corporate sin and a time of intercessory prayer.

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As many as 500 persons gathered at times during the six-hour event in the Cannon House of Representatives Office Building. It included times of prayer for youth, families, ministers, churches and government.

Shirley Dobson, James Dobson's wife, was chairman of the 41st National Day of Prayer, which is held the first Thursday in May.

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Advisory group members hear  
positive student missions report

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press  
5/22/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--Members of the Southern Baptist Student Ministry Advisory Group heard some good news about student missions at their May 20-21 meeting in Nashville.

After several years of decline, the number of student applications for the Baptist Student Summer Missions Program increased by 87 students this year, Van Simmons, associate director of short-term volunteers at the Home Mission Board, told SMAG members. As of May 8, Simmons said 913 students had applied and been approved as either HMB- or BSU-paid summer missionaries for 1992, up from 826 last year.

Simmons, who only last summer had expressed concern about a "disturbing drop" in student missions applications, said he was "very encouraged" by this year's increase.

More good news came from Helen Wood, associate director of the Foreign Mission Board's international service department, who reported student participation in missions overseas will reach an all-time high this year. Wood said the FMB has approved 250 students as semester and summer missionaries for 1992 -- almost double last year's total of 130.

"We've never had a problem getting enough applications from students; our problem has been getting requests (for students) from the field," Wood said. While she had no one explanation for the sudden increase in requests from missionaries this year, she added, "We like to think our missionaries are beginning to see the value of using students on the mission field."

The 250 figure does not include several teams of students going to Russia this summer on short-term mission assignments. Brad Gray, a consultant in the Sunday School Board's student ministry department, said 90 students will travel to Moscow to help build two Baptist churches and a new Russia Baptist Convention Building while six students will go to Minsk to help disciple young Russian converts following a youth crusade.

SMAG meets annually to provide suggestions and guidance to the SSB's student ministry department. The group includes representatives from SBC agencies, seminaries and campus and church ministries to college students.

In other news, Gray told SMAG members plans for a new national "delivery system" for student evangelism are progressing well.

About 75 percent of the state conventions have selected their two representatives for the National Evangelism Task Force (NET Force), Gray said. The group will meet for its first training session in August.

Gray said the NET Force, which includes people relating both to campus and church ministries to college students, will meet annually to develop student evangelism programs. NET Force members then will create their own State Evangelism Task Force (SET Force) to implement the programs.

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The NET Force is being jointly coordinated by the Sunday School and Home Mission boards. And while each state will give evangelism programming their own "flavor," Gray said the NET Force will provide Southern Baptists with "a single, unified program of student evangelism."

Other subjects discussed during the SMAG meeting included:

-- International students. SSB's student ministry consultant Jeff Lewis said plans are being developed for a new "Student Missions Education Plan" which can be implemented through BSUs and local churches. The plan is being designed to increase student awareness of and involvement in home and foreign missions. Also being developed is a certification training workshop to help Southern Baptists more effectively minister to international students.

-- Mission Service Corps. Mike Riggins, associate director of the Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps, reported about 10 percent of MSC volunteers are now involved in student ministry positions either on college campuses or in local churches. The average tenure for these student volunteers is just over four years, Riggins said, more than a year above the 2.8-year average tenure for MSC volunteers overall. "I think this speaks volumes about the kind of people we are assigning to student ministry through Mission Service Corps," he said.

-- Student leadership. SMAG members had an opportunity to interact with almost 70 BSU state and local chapter presidents who were attending a special training program at the Sunday School Board May 18-22. Gray said some of the students being trained at the event in turn will lead leadership seminars at Student Week at Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers.

-- Emerging issues. SMAG members listed abuse, racism, AIDS, bivocational ministry, new ways of missions involvement/funding, economic concerns, the need for ministering to commuter students, world hunger and working with non-traditional and ethnic students as some of the "emerging issues" student workers likely will be grappling with in the next few years.

-- Discipleship. SSB's student ministry consultant Scott Allen said four new books in the Collegiate Disciple series will be released by the end of June: "Abuse: A Christian Student's Response"; "Confronting Racism"; "The Student as Friend in Need"; and "Missions and My Life."

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Ten steps prepare churches  
for evangelistic Bible schools

By Sarah Zimmerman

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5/22/92

LAS VEGAS (BP)--As churches across the nation prepare for Vacation Bible Schools, they can take at least 10 steps to be sure the rite of summer is an evangelistic tool.

Art Burcham, manager of the general officers program section for the Baptist Sunday School Board, outlined the 10 steps during a Home Mission Board-sponsored school of evangelism and church growth in Las Vegas.

First, Bible school workers must understand the relationship of a child to God. Children are not ready for conversion at the same age because children are unique and develop at different paces, Burcham said.

To make Bible school evangelistic, churches must promote it to unsaved families.

An essential element is for the pastor to be involved in the Bible school's evangelistic effort. The pastor should not be the only one responsible for evangelism, but "in most situations the church will not rise above its pastor," Burcham said.

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Bible school workers need to be trained to share their faith individually and to teach evangelistically, Burcham said.

The Bible school program needs to include an evangelistic service when students are given opportunity to respond to the gospel, Burcham said. The Sunday School Board offers several resources to help churches plan an effective evangelistic service without causing children to make a decision from peer pressure, he said.

As with any situation, Burcham said it is important to counsel individually with Bible school students who make a profession of faith.

The evangelistic thrust can continue after Bible school is over by conducting transfer enrollment. This involves asking children who came to Bible school but are not enrolled in Sunday school if they would like to be enrolled.

The next step, then, is to teach evangelistically in Sunday school, Burcham said.

Finally, visiting non-Christian parents of children who came to Bible school should be given priority in the church's visitation program.

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Pastors may miss God's agenda  
by doing what members expect

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
5/22/92

LAS VEGAS (BP)--Some churches are not growing because their pastors are too busy doing what church members expect, said a preacher who rarely makes hospital visits, seldom performs weddings and never participates in his church's jail ministry.

"The average pastor is doing just what people expect him to do," Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., told 400 people attending a Home Mission Board school of evangelism and church growth in Las Vegas.

Hunt based his comments on Moses' conversation with his father-in-law, Jethro, in Exodus 18. When Jethro asked Moses why he spent all day settling the people's disputes, Moses said he did so because the people expected it.

Today's pastors are like Moses, "running at the dictates of their church members," Hunt said. "They are more conscious of doing what the members want them to do than what God wants them to do."

"The question is, who are you trying to please?"

When Hunt became pastor of the Woodstock church in December 1986, the church had an average Sunday school attendance of 262.

Within four years, the church was averaging 1,400 in Sunday school and 1,500 in worship. The church baptized from 300 to 579 people every year between 1987 and 1990.

Hunt attributes the church's growth to its willingness to follow God's leadership.

"Every Sunday we raise our spiritual sail and let the Spirit of God fill it and blow us where he wants us to go," Hunt said. "God is not interested in getting on the agenda of your church. He wants you on his agenda."

One step towards God's agenda is for pastors to follow Jethro's advice and train men who fear God to minister. Hunt defined men who fear God as people of morality, integrity, honesty and accountability.

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Sharing responsibilities gives Hunt time to study God's Word and prepare to present it to his people, which he said is the pastor's main responsibility. It also frees lay people to minister as God calls them.

"Efficiency sometimes reveals itself not by what one accomplishes but by what one relinquishes," Hunt said.

As churches grow, the workload must be shared or pastors will experience burn-out and church members will become frustrated with the pastor, he said.

Pastors can keep the excitement in their ministry by constantly recalling God's grace. "We need to fall in love with Jesus and never get over it," Hunt said.

Rejoicing over God's goodness also will restore joy, Hunt said. "Our worship services are a celebration of what God has done in our lives and what he did at the cross. I thought about putting up a billboard for our church that said, 'Happy Hour: 11 a.m. Sunday.'"

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Seven lifestyle groups respond  
to different types of outreach

By Sarah Zimmerman

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5/22/92

LAS VEGAS (BP)--Churches need to be aware of seven American lifestyles and be prepared to approach each type with a different style of outreach, a Baptist Sunday School Board church growth consultant said.

Tom Lee discussed the seven lifestyle groups during a Home Mission Board-sponsored school of evangelism and church growth in Las Vegas.

The seven lifestyles and how they respond to outreach are:

-- Needers, people who are on or near the poverty level. They include older people who did not plan well for their retirement income.

Typically they are angry because they have not realized the American dream. That anger leads to further distrust of the system, including churches.

Lee said taking "needers" food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas is not enough to penetrate their anger. He suggested self-help seminars on topics such as smart shopping and home improvements as a way to reach them with the gospel.

-- Joiners, people who are looking for acceptance. Lee described "joiners" as traditionalists who avoid risks and change. They would rather be in a Sunday school class with a name than an age bracket. They enjoy doctrine studies because it defines the beliefs of the group they have joined.

"Joiners" want to be on the church's mailing list because it is a sign they have been accepted. Because they resist change, they typically respond to old-fashioned gospel preaching.

-- Wanters, people who want something they don't have or want to be something they aren't. They often feel like failures and constantly seek forgiveness for their failures, Lee said.

In churches, "wanters" are often problem makers because they are so dissatisfied.

Lee suggested sending someone to visit "wanters" who is what they would like to be. For example, send a dentist to see someone who always wanted to be a dentist. If their ambition is not known, Lee said it is important to treat "wanters" like professionals.

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-- Do-ers, people driven to achieve. They are rarely satisfied with where they are. They like quality and expect first-class materials and programs from churches.

They are very careful with their time, so visiting "do-ers" should include calling to set up an appointment.

-- Me-ers, people who are individualists. People in this group may be against everything their parents stand for just as an expression of their individuality.

Yet "me-ers" respond to love that reaches past their signs of rebellion. Lee said they may say they're against something the church represents just to see if church members will still love them. "Some of them may have come to church to see what would happen and they've been turned away."

-- Earthers, people who seek to improve the environment, who do not want to be part of the church if it is not helping take care of the world. Using styrofoam cups during church socials, for example, will keep "earthers" from church, Lee said.

-- Tripers, people who are on a journey. These people are attracted by the renewal movement as they seek new experiences. They resist structure and order, and they enjoy short-term commitments.

Most churches will mainly reach people in only one of the lifestyle groups, Lee said.

Regardless of the type person a church reaches, it needs to "develop an attitude of love pats," he said. Some church members are comfortable in different visitation roles, from prayer support to contacting absentees to making evangelistic visits, he said, and church leaders need to affirm people wherever they are in that process.

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Campus ministers group  
to meet in Indianapolis

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers will hold their annual meeting June 8 at the Days Inn/Airport in Indianapolis.

"Called out of Crisis" is the theme for the meeting, which comes the day before the start of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to time for fellowship and dialogue, campus ministers will hear reports from Charles Johnson, director of the student ministry department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; Ircel Harrison, state student director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Ron Hornecker, associate professor of supervised ministry and director of the doctor of ministry program at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

The meeting will include three sessions -- a morning session from 10 a.m. until noon, an afternoon session from 1:30-5 p.m. and an evening session from 7-9 p.m. The evening session will include a banquet, special speaker and entertainment, awards presentation, remarks by ASBCM president Randy Deering and installation of officers.

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