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Comprehensive witness training
to be required of HMB missionaries

Baptist Press
2/12/93

By Martin F King

ATLANTA (BP)--All home missionaries will receive more comprehensive soul-winning training under a new guideline reviewed and supported by the Home Mission Board's missionary personnel committee.

The committee reviewed the issue Feb. 9 during HMB executive committee meetings. The executive committee appointed 14 new home missionaries, heard HMB President Larry Lewis clarify his position on recent actions by the WMU and received a year-end financial report.

Lewis explained that all approved missionaries are required to take a one-day soul-winning course, but under the new requirements appointed and approved missionaries will need to take a more intensive seminar within two years of appointment.

"We have consulted with missionaries and convention leadership across the country and feel strongly that the missionaries need these soul-winning tools to help reach this nation for Christ," Lewis explained.

He said those missionaries already in service will have two years to obtain the necessary training. Newly appointed missionaries will need to complete a Continuing Witness Training seminar. Approved category missionaries, which primarily are mission pastors, may take either CWT or WIN (Witness Involvement Now).

Details of the new guidelines have been mailed to all home missionaries by the HMB's missionary personnel department.

During the meeting, Lewis was asked to clarify for HMB executive committee members his position on actions last month by the Woman's Missionary Union which allow for expansion of the scope of WMU work.

Stating that he had been misunderstood by some Southern Baptists, Lewis said, "I am not in support of any SBC agency supporting a schismatic organization that has set itself against Southern Baptist leadership and agencies. However, I am not opposed to any agency, including the WMU, serving every church which is in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention."

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Lewis explained that he has directed HMB staff to serve any church that would be considered a cooperating Southern Baptist church. "If messengers from a church are seated at the Southern Baptist Convention, we are obligated to assist and serve that church and its people. We cannot and will not, however, support any organization that has set itself up as a shadow denomination with agencies in direct competition with SBC agencies."

Lewis read and distributed to board members copies of the statement he issued last month which delineated his position on the WMU action.

The executive committee also received a year-end financial report from Ernest Kelley, executive vice president for planning and finance. Kelley reported that unaudited figures indicate 1992 was a good year financially for the HMB even though Cooperative Program receipts were a half million dollars under budget. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering receipts were \$2.6 million over budget, according to Kelley.

The next meeting of the HMB directors will be March 16-17.

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Abortion battle in Congress
turns to Freedom of Choice Act

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
2/12/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--The latest battle on the legislative front of America's war over abortion will be fought over the Freedom of Choice Act. If the rhetoric from both abortion advocates and abortion opponents is any indication, it will be a volatile fight in Congress.

Pro-life legislators and organizations contend FOCA will mandate abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy throughout the 50 states. No state legislature will be able to pass meaningful restrictions on the practice, they say.

Supporters of FOCA say it will do no more than write into law the Roe v. Wade decision, the 1973 ruling which legalized abortion. At least, abortion advocates say, it would codify Roe as it existed before the Supreme Court allowed some state restrictions in its decisions in the 1989 Webster v. Reproductive Health Services and 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey cases.

"FOCA is the most radical pro-abortion legislation Congress has ever considered," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "It is a federal mandate which would require every state to allow abortion on demand from conception to birth.

"The abortion lobby is deceiving Americans by asserting that FOCA merely codifies Roe. As far as we are concerned that is bad enough, since Roe has given America nearly 30 million abortions since 1973," Smith said. "But FOCA is even worse than Roe."

State regulations allowed in the Casey decision, such as parental consent for minors, informed consent for women and waiting periods, are "in essence, 'Jim Crow' abortion laws, designed to obstruct women's exercise of a legal right," the National Abortion Rights Action League said in a January written statement. "Like the poll taxes and literacy tests used earlier this century to prevent African-Americans from voting, these restrictions are attempts to place obstacle after obstacle on a woman's right to choose."

The bill is clear in its "intent and scope ... in the face of misinformation and distortions by opponents of choice," NARAL President Kate Michelman testified in a Senate hearing last summer. "The Freedom of Choice Act establishes a national standard to protect every American woman, no matter which state she calls home.

"We will not rest until the Freedom of Choice Act is the law of the land."

Congress' consideration of FOCA may begin soon. A hearing is likely by the end of February before a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives, a subcommittee spokesperson said. On the Senate side, it is uncertain when a hearing will be held, a committee aide said.

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The Senate bill, with Majority Leader George Mitchell, D.-Me., as the chief sponsor, has 39 co-sponsors. In the House, FOCA has 100 co-sponsors, with Rep. Don Edwards, D.-Cal., as the lead sponsor. As in the last session, the bill numbers are S. 25 in the Senate and H.R. 25 in the House.

FOCA was passed last year by both the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, but it never reached the floor of either chamber. Some reports indicated the Democratic leadership chose not to bring FOCA up for a vote because of the controversy it would create in an election year and because it had less support than anticipated.

Last year, then-President George Bush promised to veto FOCA. During the campaign, Bill Clinton promised to sign the bill.

Despite President Clinton's support, leaders in the House face the threat of an exodus from FOCA by fellow pro-choice members.

Some pro-choice representatives "feel very uneasy about the bill. ... more and more members are seeing how extreme the bill really is," said Maggie Wynn, executive director of the House Pro-life Caucus.

Among those are Rep. Lee Hamilton, D.-Ind., a 15-term congressman who was considered by Clinton as a vice presidential running mate last year. Hamilton has said he favors restrictions like those allowed by the Supreme Court in the Casey decision.

In the Senate, Paul Coverdell, R.-Ga., says he is pro-choice but is opposed to FOCA. Coverdell defeated Democratic incumbent Wyche Fowler, a supporter of FOCA, in November.

The vote in the House will be "very, very close," Wynn said.

"I'm not sure, as bad as things have gotten in Congress, that even this Congress is willing to accept this bill in its most radical form," the CLC's Smith said.

Pro-choicers who have qualms about FOCA might support it with amendments allowing some restrictions on abortion. Congressional pro-choice leaders, as well as NARAL and its fellow organizations, have made it clear they oppose such amendments.

Last year, the House Judiciary Committee defeated an amendment which would have permitted states to restrict tax funding of abortion. In the subcommittee, amendments allowing states to require parental consent and informed consent, as well as to ban abortions based on the sex of the unborn child, were defeated.

Both S. 25 and H.R. 25 include language enabling states to require a "minor to involve a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult before terminating a pregnancy." This is not true parental consent, pro-lifers say. A "responsible adult" could be the person performing the abortion, they argue.

The Senate and House versions differ in one especially critical manner. S. 25 allows states to protect "unwilling individuals or private health care institutions from having to participate in the performance of abortions to which they are conscientiously opposed." The House bill provides protection only for individuals, not private hospitals.

If the House language prevails in the final bill, a state could not protect Baptist, Catholic and other private hospitals from being forced to allow abortions, FOCA critics say.

How strongly Clinton is willing to fight for FOCA also may be a factor in whether it passes.

"I do not believe Clinton will make this a major agenda item to push," the CLC's Smith said. "I think the reaction to his plans on homosexuals in the military will cause him to be reticent about advancing this bill."

Clinton has directed an executive order lifting the ban on homosexuals serving in the military be drafted by July 15. His proposal has been met by disapproval from military leaders and some members of Congress, as well as by large numbers of phone calls and protests from the public.

1992 Brotherhood voluntarism
equals \$67 million to missions By Steve Barber

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The time and labor of Southern Baptist Brotherhood missions volunteers equaled an estimated \$67.4 million in 1992, according to James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

With 27 state Brotherhood directors reporting volunteer activity, Williams said there were 75,341 missions volunteers recruited through Brotherhood who participated in 8,905 national and international projects.

"If you add other volunteers recruited through other Southern Baptist entities and reported through the Volunteers in Missions network, the number would easily exceed 100,000," Williams said. "This is good news and Southern Baptists need to celebrate the 'good news.'"

The inter-agency Volunteers in Missions Task Force assigns a dollar value to the volunteers' work. The task force estimates that each volunteer spends an average of three days on a project and that the average missionary salary is \$30,000 per year. Applying this formula to the 60,883 Brotherhood missions volunteers reported in non-construction projects, the volunteers' time and labor is valued at about \$24.9 million.

"This \$24.9 figure is the equivalent of about 830 career missionary annual salaries," said Jim Furgerson, Baptist Men's director for the Brotherhood Commission.

In addition, 14,458 Brotherhood construction volunteers accomplished 1,701 mission construction projects, 196 outside the continental United States. Furgerson estimated that 425 of these construction projects were new church buildings.

Volunteer labor typically cuts the cost of new church construction in half, according to Furgerson.

"We have found that the average minimum cost of a new mission church with sanctuary and classroom space is now between \$200,000 and \$250,000," Furgerson said. "A conservative estimate is that Brotherhood volunteers saved about \$100,000 per new church building start. So, that means a savings of at least \$42 million for 1992 alone."

The \$67.4 million total is the sum of the \$42.5 million in time and labor given by construction volunteers and the \$24.9 million from non-construction volunteers.

"That total is very conservative, especially when you realize we can't include a reliable estimate of all the construction time and labor on non-church buildings," Furgerson said. "If we could quantify that, the grand total would be even higher."

Along with construction volunteers, the categories reported included involvement in disaster relief, church renewal, lay-led revivals, criminal justice ministries, nursing home ministries, mission Bible studies, mission Vacation Bible Schools and Royal Ambassador boys' camps.

The state Brotherhood directors also reported projects undertaken by their National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions (NFBM) vocational fellowships, including sports, performing arts, agriculture, business, education and medical/dental.

Of the 8,905 total projects reported for 1992, 2,054 were overseas and involved 3,918 volunteers.

"This massive response on the part of Baptist men and women is further indication that the missions spirit is very much alive among our people," Williams said. "I see this as a hopeful sign for our future."

Blackaby: Christian revival is first step for America's healing By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP)--Too many Christians in America today have such a distant relationship to God they don't recognize that the message, "Repent, the kingdom of God is at hand," is meant for them, the director of spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board told trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board Feb. 9.

"Folks, the healing of America waits on the repentance of God's people," said Henry Blackaby. "If God's people do not return to God, his redemptive purpose comes to a halt."

Noting spiritual awakening in America has not occurred since 1857-58, he said spiritual awakening is always preceded by revival among Christians that begins with prayer among leaders.

"If we will not pray, we will not see a mighty movement of God," said Blackaby, co-author of a series of resources, "A Fresh Encounter with God," scheduled for release this summer. "If we do not pray, we will get what we do not pray for." He said "deep movements of God like I have not seen" are under way in some Southern Baptist churches, particularly in California.

At the same time, in most churches, "we have a spiritual holocaust. It has nothing to do with the number of baptisms. It has to do with the holiness of the people of God. As go the people of God, so goes the winning of the rest of the world."

The tendency of Christians and churches is to depart from God, to substitute things such as money or methods for him, Blackaby said. Too many churches are giving all their emphasis to attracting people to their churches rather than focusing on what takes place when they attend.

"We've substituted pageantry for worship," he said. "If you can go into worship and come out the same, you haven't encountered him. In much of what we're doing, we're portraying the glory of man and the glory of methods."

God provides a plumbline to enable Christians to know and understand his standards, Blackaby said.

"We compare ourselves with ourselves rather than the plumbline of God. I believe God is putting the spiritual plumbline right down the middle of Southern Baptists," he said.

As Christians better understand God's plumbline, they focus on God's principles rather than those of the world. They are willing to give themselves away for the sake of others.

In contrast, Blackaby said, "I know of churches that will not start a mission because they're trying to save their life."

"A Fresh Encounter with God," a joint project of the Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board, is designed for group study in churches. Resources include a video overview, workbook for members, leader's guide, tapes outlining God's plumbline related to specific issues and music.

"Spiritual awakening always has included music," he said.

Blackaby is writing the materials with Claude King, a former design editor at the Sunday School Board who resigned to give full time to completing the project. Blackaby's associate at the Home Mission Board, Ron Owens, is working with Genevox Music Group to produce the music.

Working cooperatively, Blackaby said the HMB and BSSB "are going to do our dead level best to help our people return to God so God can bless us once more."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Baptist colleges' enrollment
up for 11th consecutive year

By Tim Fields

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist colleges and universities showed an overall increase in fall enrollment for the 11th consecutive year, according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Enrollment figures for the 1992 fall semester show 115,353 students attended Southern Baptist colleges and universities, a 1.8 percent increase over the 1991 total of 113,262.

The enrollment figures include both full-time and part-time students in college credit courses but do not include students enrolled in noncredit courses. Enrollment statistics were released to the commission by each school.

A compilation of the figures shows that 36 of the 53 colleges and universities had an increase in enrollment ranging from 23.3 percent to 0.1 percent.

North Greenville College in Tigerville, S.C., had the largest percentage increase with 23.3 percent followed by Missouri Baptist College, St. Louis, 22.8 percent; William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., 21.5 percent; Mobile (Ala.) College, 19.7 percent; East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas, 18.6 percent; Truett-McConnell College, Cleveland, Ga., 14.8 percent; and Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, 12.4 percent.

Baylor University showed the largest numerical increase from fall 1991 to fall 1992, with 375 additional students followed by William Carey College, 360; Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, 296; Mobile College, 278; Missouri Baptist College, 267; Truett-McConnell College, 242; and East Texas Baptist University, 189.

The last time overall enrollment in Southern Baptist colleges and universities decreased was in 1981, when enrollment was 91,602, a drop of less than 1 percent over the previous year.

The increased enrollment the past 11 years means 23,073 more students attended the 53 Southern Baptist colleges and universities during the fall 1992 term than attended in fall 1982, for a net increase of 25 percent.

"The fact that a majority of the colleges and universities still experience growth in enrollment demonstrates the confidence that Southern Baptists have in their institutions of higher education even in an environment of change," said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission.

"The faculty members and administrators of these institutions have demonstrated their Christian faith even as they have worked to strengthen the academic programs of these schools. With the national emphasis on education, we Christians must recognize that higher education offers a continuing opportunity for relating faith to all areas of knowledge and human endeavor.

"If the Christian faith is to impact experience, it must be related to the leaders, professionals, researchers and scholars of society. The basic mission purpose of Baptist institutions is to equally emphasize personal faith and professional competency," Walker said.

Baylor University in Waco, Texas, remains the largest Southern Baptist university with 12,185 students, followed by Mercer University with 6,348 students. Campbell University is the third largest Southern Baptist-related university in the nation with 5,806 students. Wake Forest University with 5,624 students is fourth.

Some universities have reached or surpassed their established enrollment and are limiting the number of incoming students through admissions ceilings and/or higher standards.

Following are the 1992 fall enrollment figures and the percentage of increase or decrease from fall 1991 to fall 1992 (rounded to the nearest 10th of 1 percent) at all Southern Baptist colleges and universities by state.

Alabama -- Judson College, 327, down 12 percent; Mobile College, 1,691, up 19.7 percent; Samford University, 4,341, up 2.2 percent.

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Arizona -- Grand Canyon University, 1,747, up 0.1 percent.

Arkansas -- Ouachita Baptist University, 1,296, up 0.5 percent; Williams Baptist College, 691, down 10 percent.

California -- California Baptist College, 774, up 3.2 percent.

Florida -- Florida Baptist Theological College, 498, up 9.2 percent; Palm Beach Atlantic College, 1,643, up 8 percent; Stetson University, 3,067, up 3.3 percent.

Georgia -- Brewton-Parker College, 1,974, down 7.8 percent; Mercer University, 6,348, up 2.9 percent; Shorter College, 865, up 5.3 percent; Truett-McConnell College, 1,878, up 14.8 percent.

Kentucky -- Campbellsville College, 1,041, up 3.7 percent; Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 152, up 4.7 percent; Cumberland College, 1,498, down 10.5 percent; Georgetown College, 1,476, down 4.6 percent.

Louisiana -- Louisiana College, 1,026, up 1.3 percent.

Mississippi -- Blue Mountain College, 396, up 3.9 percent; Mississippi College, 3,635, down 3.6 percent; William Carey College, 2,032, up 21.5 percent.

Missouri -- Hannibal-LaGrange College, 892, up 6.1 percent; Missouri Baptist College, 1,429, up 22.8 percent; Southwest Baptist University, 2,845, down 3.2 percent; William Jewell College, 1,880, down 2.9 percent.

North Carolina -- Campbell University, 5,806, up 2.9 percent; Chowan College, 639, down 14.8 percent; Gardner-Webb University, 2,079, up 3.2 percent; Mars Hill College, 1,354, up 2.3 percent; Meredith College, 2,289, down 3.1 percent; Wake Forest University, 5,624, down 2.8 percent; Wingate College, 1,495, down 8.3 percent.

Oklahoma -- Oklahoma Baptist University, 2,260, up 4.3 percent.

South Carolina -- Anderson College, 1,172, up 7.5 percent; Charleston Southern University, 2,491, up 3.2 percent; Furman University, 3,271, down 0.7 percent; North Greenville College, 476, up 23.3 percent.

Tennessee -- Belmont University, 2,866, up 1.6 percent; Carson-Newman College, 2,022, down 4.5 percent; Union University, 2,337, up 2.9 percent.

Texas -- Baylor University, 12,185, up 3.1 percent; Dallas Baptist University, 2,712, up 2.9 percent; East Texas Baptist University, 1,204, up 18.6 percent; Hardin-Simmons University, 1,950, up 8.2 percent; Houston Baptist University, 2,200, down 3.3 percent; Howard Payne University, 1,293, down 7.3 percent; University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 1,904, up 4.2 percent; Wayland Baptist University, 2,678, up 12.4 percent.

Virginia -- Averett College, 1,674, up 4.4 percent; Bluefield College, 707, up 10.1 percent; University of Richmond, 4,576, down 2.3 percent; Virginia Intermt College, 647, up 0.9 percent.

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'Authentic' ministers needed
to help bring campus revival

By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
2/12/93

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (BP)--Are American college campuses on the brink of revival?

Student ministry leader Louie Giglio believes the answer to that question is "yes" but adds there is one missing ingredient to bring it about -- an "authenticity of heart" among student ministers.

"The culture on today's campuses is ripe for a fresh movement of God and Christian students are ready to be mobilized. I know God is ready. The missing ingredient is leadership," Giglio, director of Choice Ministries in Waco, Texas, told approximately 140 student ministers attending the Conference on Student Evangelism Feb. 8-11 in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

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Giglio said possession of great strategies, methodologies and skills are not the main qualifications needed for those ministers who will take the lead in a new Christian student movement. The key is an "authenticity of the heart," which he defined as "an active passionate pursuit of God that results in the gift of his presence."

"There is a tremendous difference between knowing a lot about something and truly knowing something," he said, adding students quickly notice when the fire that comes from knowing and experiencing God has gone from the hearts of student ministers.

"I've run into so many people who work for God, but they don't walk with God. We don't prioritize our relationship with him," he said.

Giglio, whose Bible studies at a Waco, Texas, church regularly draw more than 1,000 students from the Baylor University campus, was one of three keynote speakers at the Conference on Student Evangelism. Sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry and the Home Mission Board, the conference attracted campus ministry (BSU) directors, church ministers to college students and state student directors from across the country.

Like Giglio, Tulsa, Okla., pastor Charlie Baker urged the student ministers to place Christ at the center of their ministry. While admitting witnessing is an activity, he said "evangelism at its best comes out of your being. ... It is being a witness for Jesus Christ in the power of his Spirit and leaving the results to God."

Baker, who announced he will leave his pastorate at Southern Hills Baptist Church March 1 to become a "relationship consultant" with a Christian-based management consulting firm in Tulsa, cautioned ministers against sharing their faith because others pressure them to. Instead, they should witness "because of the touch of God in your lives."

Sam Douglass, pastor of Yorktown Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, urged conference participants to keep the gospel message clear and simple.

He used the analogy of an out-of-order answering machine that offers callers a garbled message followed by a series of incoherent beeps. Not only is it impossible to understand, but the confusion makes it difficult to make any kind of valid response. The caller is left frustrated and, often, angry.

Unfortunately, many non-believers are experiencing that same kind of "connection" in their encounters with Christians, Douglass said.

"The gospel message needs to be clear and precise. But many times non-believers out there are hearing garbled messages from us. And sometimes we are sending the wrong message altogether," he said.

Douglass challenged the student ministers to ask themselves, "How real is the Lord in your life? Is he real enough for the message to come across, or are you sending mixed messages?"

He also warned against the dangers of "turfism" in Christian work, adding campus groups and churches should work together in building God's kingdom.

"We're living in a world where it is going to get harder and harder to take a stand for Christ. We'd better learn to stand together. ... There's only one turf and that belongs to Jesus Christ."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Texans minister in Ukrainian
hospitals, other institutions

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
2/12/93

DALLAS (BP)--The level of medical care and the modernity of technology at one hospital in Lugansk, Ukraine, soon will advance by about four decades, thanks to the work of Texas Baptists and "the activity of God," said Bob Dixon, executive director of the Texas Baptist Men missions organization.

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The hospital -- where many victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster continue to receive treatment -- will be remodeled by Southern Baptist volunteers from Texas and will be furnished with equipment previously used at an East Texas county hospital.

Last June, after an initial Southern Baptist fact-finding team went to the Ukraine to explore ministry opportunities, First Baptist Church in Center, Texas, bought for the Lugansk hospital a \$10,000 X-ray machine -- purchased when a local county hospital was closed.

Three months later, Texas Baptist Men purchased most of the remaining contents of that hospital. Although the purchase price was \$7,500, the equipment is valued at many times that amount, Dixon noted. Texas Baptists also provided about \$100,000 worth of food to be distributed to needy Ukrainians by Baptists in Lugansk.

At a prayer retreat last Labor Day weekend, Robert Mann, a physician and chairman of the missions committee at Fielder Road Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, learned about medical needs in Lugansk and of the plan to provide the hospital equipment.

In January -- at about the time the Baptist-secured equipment arrived in the port of Odessa -- Mann traveled to Lugansk, along with his pastor, Gary Smith, and Bob Hines, chairman of the church's finance committee. Mann met with the central medical director for the region and visited several hospitals in the Lugansk area.

"Their hospitals are kind of like what we would have had in the late '40s or early '50s," Mann said. "There's a real need for modern medical equipment."

The equipment provided by Texas Baptists will be used in a 550-bed cancer hospital in central Lugansk, Mann said. Although the city has a population of 550,000, he estimated the regional hospital has a service area of 1 million people.

While Mann reviewed area medical needs, Hines went with city officials to food distribution sites where commodities purchased by Texas Baptists were being provided to needy people, and Smith preached twice to crowds of about 300 at each gathering.

Currently, John LaNoue, director of Texas Baptist Young Men, is in Lugansk, along with Lee Roy and Willie Gendke, volunteers from First Baptist Church in Center. The Texans are unloading equipment purchased by TBM and examining facilities to determine what renovations are needed.

Due some unforeseen shipping developments, the medical equipment arrived at the Black Sea port in unlabeled freight containers, LaNoue reported. That cloak of anonymity protected the valuable shipment from black marketeers, he noted.

"We had 90,000 pounds of valuable equipment that went in without ever being opened or examined," LaNoue said. "It simply was a miracle."

Later this spring, Kerfoot and Marietta Crowder Walker, medical doctors from Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, will travel to Lugansk to finish installing the equipment and to train Ukrainian doctors how to use it.

Southern Baptist agronomists in the near future also are expected to respond to a request for guest lecturers from Vasily Kochetkov, rector of the Lugansk Agricultural Institute.

A dozen Southern Baptists recently led prison crusades in Lugansk, conducted prison ministry training for Ukrainian Baptists and explored ministry opportunities among the Russian military establishment.

Harold Ellis of First Baptist Church in Belton, Texas, led the group that visited 13 of the 15 prisons in the Lugansk area by day and spoke in area churches at night.

The Texas Baptists distributed 8,000 tracts and 5,000 Bibles, and they led 750 persons to make professions of faith in Jesus.

"There is a real hunger in the Ukraine -- in prison and outside of it -- to have the Word of God and to know Jesus," said Ellis, criminal justice ministry vice president of Texas Baptist Men.

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Jerry Horn of First Baptist Church in Universal City, Texas, visited four of the five key military commanders in the Lugansk area, giving them Bibles and discussing the possibility of ministries on their bases. Horn also distributed more than 60 Bibles at an English-language school in Lugansk.

One commander -- a Muslim -- refused to allow Horn into his office, but the two men stood outside in the snow as Horn shared his faith.

Although one of the other commanders was reticent because he expected an unfavorable reaction from his superiors, two others were very receptive, said Horn, vice president of the Texas Baptist Men military fellowship.

Horn, who served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, said the key to ministries among the military lies with the Ukrainian churches, whose members must put behind them decades of bad memories concerning the armed forces.

"Trust comes on an individual basis, and it may be a long time in coming," he said. "But already there are some in the churches who are willing to take the chance."

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EDITORS' NOTE: In the 2-11-93 (BP) story titled "Stewardship Commission cuts professional staff, salaries," please add the following as the third paragraph: Fagan did not name the three staff members who would be terminated no later than June 1. The salary cuts, he said, are effectively immediately.

Thanks,
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