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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 15, 1993

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FMB VP will vacate post
before date he announced

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
4/15/93

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president who announced he would retire June 30 will instead leave his post on April 25.

The early departure of Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission personnel, allows for a "more orderly transition" between him and his interim successor, said interim President Don R. Kammerdiener.

Thurmon E. Bryant, now an associate vice president in mission personnel, will become interim vice president on April 26.

Though Spurgeon has acted as one of several key foreign mission strategists at the board, Kammerdiener said he had no choice but to shorten Spurgeon's transition time because he feels Spurgeon's public statement shows lack of confidence in Foreign Mission Board trustees and staff.

Kammerdiener, who also asked Spurgeon not to attend the trustee board meeting in Columbus, Ohio, April 19-21, said trustees did not intervene in the matter.

In a letter dated March 30, Spurgeon announced his early retirement and charged that board trustees have put denominational controversy and politics above the board's "only agenda" of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. He said integrity demanded he quit his post. His letter triggered letters of support for trustees and the board's interim administration from several other administrators.

Although it was not what he requested, Spurgeon said an early transition would be best for the Foreign Mission Board. In addition, "I feel comfortable about Don Kammerdiener's decision, because it gives me additional time to contemplate the future," he said.

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Spurgeon will receive full pay and benefits through June 30, his 62nd birthday and the day he requested to begin early retirement. He said he has been offered three jobs, but will make no decision now. He would not comment on whether the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was one of them. The CBF is composed of Baptists who disagree with the current leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I could say yes to any one of them (job offers)," he said. "But my wife and I have made a decision not to make a decision until we could get some space." He is uncertain whether he wants to "really retire," and possibly serve interim pastorates, or take another job.

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Task force examining SBC
hears study group reports

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
4/15/93

CONROE, Texas (BP)--The work of 100 people in nine study groups drawn together to look at the Southern Baptist Convention was reviewed by a task force but no recommendations were approved during an April 13-14 meeting at a resort north of Houston.

"There was genuine excitement as the reports from the study groups were discussed," H. Edwin Young, president of the SBC and pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, told Baptist Press. "But the task force will continue, through correspondence, conference calls ... to come up with findings which will help us (Southern Baptists) to fulfill the mandate God has given us."

Young appointed the nine study groups last September to examine "where we've been, where we need to be." The co-chairmen of the nine groups met with Young and task force general chairman James T. Draper, Jr. to give summaries of their findings. Draper is president of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The task force will "pull out the salient action steps" from the study group findings, Draper said.

"We want to do it properly. We want to use proper procedure. We have strong confidence in our Southern Baptist cooperative efforts," Draper said.

"We have no axe to grind. There was a real diversity in the 100 people who were on the study groups; they represented the diversity of the SBC."

Draper said the task force recommendations or suggestions would be channeled to the proper agencies as they are developed, but the work of the task force will be finished by the SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., in June 1994.

"Basically, we brainstormed ideas that could be helpful for the future," Draper said.

Whatever the outcome of the meeting, Young was unquestionably optimistic and positive about the task force deliberations.

"The meeting was characterized by openness, honesty, transparency," Young said. "This is not pie in the sky; we feel under a mandate that we have as Southern Baptists."

Young said the group spoke of "great appreciation for the past, the dreams, sacrifices and big decisions of those before us. We stand on their shoulders."

And, Young said, the task force will look at "where we are today, with a mandate for spreading the gospel and putting a Bible in every person's hands."

Although Young and Draper were reluctant to talk of details, both said there may be some recommendations which would require action by the SBC itself, possibly constitutional changes. But, Draper added, the recommendations would come through the proper channels, i.e., the SBC Executive Committee for constitutional and bylaw changes.

Young also noted all of the 100 people involved in the study groups and the task force did so on their own expense; "no Cooperative Program funds were used." Even members of the 20-person task force provided for their own travel to Bentwater on Lake Conroe resort for the meeting. Young said he took care of their lodging at the resort.

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Although not all the co-chairmen of the study groups were present at the meeting, reports were given for all the groups: theological, Timothy George, dean, Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., and Roy Honeycutt, president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., co-chairmen; reaching the world, Charles Fuller, pastor, First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., and Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; reaching youth and children, Dwight (Ike) Reighard, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga., and Rodney Gage, Texas-based evangelist.

Reaching America, Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., and Frank Pollard, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; women's ministries, Susie Hawkins, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Sarah Maddox, Brentwood, Tenn.; multi-ethnic, George Harris, pastor, Castle Hills First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, and James Semple, director, state missions commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Cords and stakes, Charles Carter, pastor, Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., and Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; family, Charles Page, pastor, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., and Stephen Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Russellville, Ark.; and Cooperative Program and special offerings, Ralph Smith, pastor, Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, and C. B. Hogue, executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention.

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Abortion advocates, opponents differ
on extending clinic access bill By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
4/15/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--Abortion providers, describing some anti-abortion activists as terrorists and the "latter-day Ku Klux Klan," called on Congress at a recent hearing to pass legislation not only protecting entrance to their clinics but preventing harassment of them and their families.

Meanwhile, three leaders of pro-life groups which practice civil disobedience disavowed support of violence and threats, but said Congress should refuse to pass a law which singles out anti-abortion protesters for punishment.

Both sides' testimony came before a House of Representatives subcommittee which recently passed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, H.R. 796. H.R. 796 would make it a federal crime to block entrance to an abortion clinic. A first conviction could result in one year in prison, a second in up to three years imprisonment.

Even though the Crime and Criminal Justice Subcommittee had reported out the bill, Rep. Charles Schumer, D.-N.Y., chairman of the subcommittee, said he scheduled the hearing to consider whether other protest activities against abortion clinic personnel also should be covered by the legislation.

The subcommittee's minority leader, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R.-Wis., announced during the hearing he would invoke a rarely used rule and request a minority hearing for which the Republicans could select the witnesses. Sensenbrenner said Schumer had rejected witnesses recommended by the Republicans, but the subcommittee chairman said he had sought the minority's input.

The hearing automatically will be held as a result of the request, but the subcommittee chairman will set the date, a subcommittee aide said.

In a letter read by Schumer, Attorney General Janet Reno said new legislation is needed to provide access to abortion clinics and also to protect women seeking abortions and doctors performing them both away from and at clinic sites.

At a press conference later, Operation Rescue leaders announced they were insisting on a meeting with President Clinton and Reno because of the attorney general's targeting of rescuers.

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During testimony at the hearing, a panel of witnesses described activities aimed at abortion providers which includes threats of violence, harassment of family members, destruction of private property and picketing at their homes.

David Gunn Jr. said such actions should not be protected by the First Amendment. Gunn, whose father was shot and killed outside a Pensacola, Fla., abortion clinic in March, said he had feared for his father's safety because of what he described as anti-abortion activists' increasingly aggressive tactics.

"These anti-choice organizations -- I can't refer to them as pro-life anymore, they're anti-choice -- are employing terrorist tactics," Gunn, 22, said. "It should all be put a stop to."

Abortion clinics "have lost scores of physicians and staff due to the direct threats to themselves and their families," said Susan Hill, president of the National Women's Health Organization. Hill said a replacement for Gunn had not been found to perform abortions.

"You must not believe that these are all well-meaning local churchgoers who are merely exercising their First Amendment rights," Hill said. "This is a holy war. There is no difference between this group of traveling terrorists and groups of terrorists in the Middle East.

"This body must send a clear message that it will not tolerate or condone terrorism in our country," Hill said.

A director of an abortion clinic in Minneapolis testified her home has been picketed, she has been "stalked" and a cement block has been thrown through her dining room window.

"I suspect if this were the Middle Ages, they would be demanding that I burn at the stake," said Jeri Rasmussen, director of Midwest Health Center for Women. "Do I fear for my personal safety, my life? Yes."

Norman Tompkins of Dallas said he has been harassed by members of the Pro-life Action Network since refusing to stop doing abortions after six other doctors had agreed to PLAN's request. In addition to many phone calls and cards asking him to stop doing abortions, his home and church have been picketed, his house has been kept under surveillance and more than 200 "unwanted" posters placed in the community, Tompkins testified.

"In short, I have become a prisoner in my own home because I believe a woman has a right to choose," said Tompkins, who says only five percent of his practice consists of performing abortions. Tompkins was accompanied at the hearing by bodyguards.

Meanwhile, Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry and two other pro-life leaders said at the April 1 hearing they oppose most of the tactics mentioned by the abortion providers. They do not support violence against people, violence against abortion clinics, threats or "stalking" of abortion providers, said Terry; Joseph Foreman, president of Missionaries to the Preborn, and Jeff White, director of Operation Rescue of California.

"We are nonviolent, and we will continue to be nonviolent," Terry said.

Operation Rescue participants are required to sign a pledge of nonviolence, Terry said. Operation Rescue leaders say there have been more than 60,000 arrests in O.R.-sponsored blockades without a conviction for violence or assault.

They have the right to expose doctors who do abortions, Terry said. We "hope they would be humiliated" into stopping their abortion practice through such activities as picketing on the sidewalk outside their home or outside their country club while they play golf, he said. When asked, Terry said he did not consider such tactics intimidation.

Terry and White said they do not approve of confronting the children of doctors who perform abortions, but Foreman said he believes it should be done once.

All three spoke forcefully against the clinic access bill.

"You must not allow the distorted agenda of the abortion lobby to make you act as if nonviolently separating a killer from the victim is the same as using force to either destroy his building or him," Foreman said.

Calling the hearing a "low-tech lynching," Terry acknowledged Operation Rescue is civil disobedience but it clearly is "not politically correct civil disobedience. ... is this selective prosecution or persecution because we have dared to confront the crown jewel of the politically correct -- child killing?"

Add an amendment to H.R. 796 which would include homosexual sit-ins outside churches, Terry told the subcommittee, "and see if this bill makes it."

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Missions fair, work projects
slated for WMU annual meeting

Baptist Press
4/15/93

By Susan Doyle

HOUSTON (BP)--Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union's June 13-14 annual meeting will include worship services, seven simultaneous missions banquets, a prayer retreat, a missions fair and conferences on current topics of interest.

Four of the five sessions will be at Houston's First Baptist Church beginning Sunday afternoon, June 13, at 2:30. The simultaneous banquets will be held at the Westin Galleria Hotel Sunday at 6 p.m. No other session will be offered Sunday evening. Monday sessions will be at First Baptist beginning at 9:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. The theme of the meeting is "Summoned to Serve."

Preceding the annual meeting, WMU members from around the country will participate in work projects in the Houston area, drawn from needs identified by Southern Baptists in Houston. Volunteers will lead Backyard Bible Clubs and craft classes in an apartment ministry and will work in four Baptist centers doing things such as staffing a fair for children, sorting clothes for the clothes closet and painting the buildings.

For the first time during an annual meeting, WMU will offer conferences and numerous optional activities during the Monday afternoon session. Participants can choose from a missions drama performed by The A.D. Players of Houston, a missions musical performed by the Houston Baptist University Choir, an informal time of visiting with home and foreign missionaries attending the annual meeting or a prayer retreat.

Or participants may choose to attend conferences addressing world hunger, God's call to women in the '90s, advocacy, biomedical ethics, ministry to abused women and children, protecting the earth, adult wellness, family violence, prison ministries and drug abuse.

Two meal functions have been planned for participants of the annual meeting. Lunch will be available on Monday, June 14, at the church. The cost is \$6 and tickets must be purchased in advance.

Seven simultaneous banquets will be held Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Westin Galleria Hotel. One home missionary and one foreign missionary will speak at each banquet. The programs will be identical with only the program personalities varying from banquet to banquet. The cost is \$18 and tickets also must be purchased in advance.

Tickets to meal functions may be purchased by writing Annual Meeting Meal Tickets, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010. Orders for tickets must be postmarked no later than May 1.

Missionaries who will speak during the annual meeting are David Fuller, Cleveland, Ohio; Mildred McWhorter, Houston, Texas; Michael and Kathie Chute, Hong Kong; and Karen Hopper, Philippines.

The following missionaries also will participate during the meeting: Tom Law, Paraguay; Mary Love, Guyana; Patricia Lane, Dallas; Dottie Williamson, Clinton, Miss.; Viola Palmer, Nicaragua; Rebecca Lewis, El Paso, Texas; John King and Will Hodge, Birmingham, Ala. In addition, Ernest Myers, representing Cooperative Services International, will participate during the program.

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Beverly D. Scott, professor emerita of the department of urban planning at Rutgers University in New Jersey, will address the gathering during the Monday morning session. William A. Lawson Jr., pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, will bring the closing message Monday evening.

Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director, and Carolyn Miller, national WMU president, will present a report during the Monday morning session.

Gerald Ray, minister of music at First Baptist, is directing the music. Several choirs and ensembles from the church will provide special music during the meeting.

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Woman's Missionary Union
Annual Meeting
June 13-14, 1993
Houston's First Baptist Church
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, Texas 77024

Theme: Summoned to Serve

"... to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ..." (Ephesians 4:12 NIV)

Sunday Afternoon, June 13

Summoned to Serve

2:30 General Session
Call to Worship -- Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Houston
Call to Order -- Carolyn D. Miller, president, WMU, SBC, Huntsville, Ala.
Hymns
Invocation -- Marge Caldwell, Houston
Greetings -- John Bisagno, pastor, First Baptist Church, Houston; Thomas Williams, administrator, First Baptist Church, Houston
Announcements
Message: "... it is the Lord Christ you are serving." David Fuller, home missionary, Cleveland, Ohio
Prayer of Intercession -- Tom Law, foreign missionary, Paraguay
Presentation of National Acteens Panelists -- Jan Turrentine, Accent editor, WMU, SBC Birmingham, Ala.
Hymn
Testimony: "... do not forget to do good and to share with others."
missions volunteer
Special Music -- Vision, First Baptist Church, Houston
Message: "... keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." -- Mildred McWhorter, home missionary, Houston
Prayer of Intercession -- Mary Love, foreign missionary, Guyana
Musical Meditation -- Fred Wilmer, music artist, Mineral Wells, Texas; Choir, First Baptist Church, Houston

Sunday Evening, June 13

Go Out and Tell

6:00 Simultaneous Banquets -- Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 West Alabama, Houston, (reservations only)

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Summoned to Serve

9:30 General Session
 Call to Order -- Carolyn Miller
 Call to Worship -- Heart Song, First Baptist Church, Houston; Pam Young, soloist, Brenham, Texas.
 Hymn
 Invocation
 Announcements and Introductions
 Message: "... go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."
 -- Michael and Kathie Chute, foreign missionaries, Hong Kong
 Prayer of Intercession -- Patricia Lane, home missionary, Dallas
 Hymn
 Business
 Executive Board Report -- Carolyn Miller, Dellanna O'Brien
 Hymn
 Prayer of Intercession -- Mary Helen Dixon, development specialist, WMU, Birmingham
 Offering
 Special Music -- New Covenant, First Baptist Church, Houston
 Prayer of Intercession -- Dottie Williamson, home missionary, Clinton, Mississippi
 Message: "... those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." -- Karen Hopper, foreign missionary, Philippines
 Hymn
 Message: "Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did." -- Beverly D. Scott, professor emerita, Department of Urban Planning, Rutgers University, Orange, New Jersey
 Prayer of Intercession -- Viola Palmer, foreign missionary, Nicaragua
 Preview of the Afternoon -- Dellanna O'Brien
 Closing Meditation -- Fred Wilmer

Monday Afternoon, June 14Summoned to Serve

12:00- Box lunch (reservations only) -- Meet the Missionaries, First Baptist Church, 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston
 1:30
 12:00- Box lunch and tour of Missions Points in Houston, (reservation only)
 4:30
 1:30- AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES -- Meet the Missionaries; Mini Prayer Retreat, Mary Ann Bridgewater, member, First Baptist Church, Houston; A.D. Players, Houston; Houston Baptist University Choir; Seamen's Ministry Project; WMU in The News: The Rest of The Story, Karen Benson, Joyce Mitchell, Bobbie Patterson, WMU staff; Baptist Book Store
 2:30
CONFERENCES:
 World Hunger ... A Challenge for Mission Action -- Nathan Porter, field staff consultant for Hunger and Migrant Ministries, HMB;
 God's Call to Women in the 90's -- Dee Jepsen, director, "Enough is Enough" campaign, Fairfax, Virginia;
 You Can Make A Difference -- Betty Bock, research associate, Center for Urban Affairs, University of Alabama at Birmingham;
 Biomedical Ethics -- C. Ben Mitchell, director, Biomedical and Life Issues, Christian Life Commission, Nashville;
 Ministry to Abused Women and Children -- Beverly Goss, home missionary, Tulsa, Okla.;

Loving Neighbors Across Time: A Christian Guide to Protecting the Earth -- Robert Parham, executive director, Baptist Center for Ethics, Nashville;
 Adult Wellness: Caring for Yourself -- Kaye Bender, RN, chief of staff, State Health Office, Mississippi Dept. of Health, Jackson, Miss.;
 Family Violence: When Home Hurts -- Lane Powell, chair, Department of Family and Consumer Education, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.;
 I Was in Prison and You Visited Me. Matt. 25:36c -- Kathy Stahr Scott, Associate WMU, Jefferson City, Mo.;
 Drug Awareness for Teens and Those Who Care About Them -- Cindy Rice, member, First Baptist Church, Laurel, Miss.

2:30 Break
 3:00- ALL ACTIVITIES REPEATED IN SAME LOCATIONS
 4:00

Monday Evening, June 14

Summoned to Serve

7:00 General Session
 Call to Order -- Carolyn D. Miller
 Call to Worship -- Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Houston
 Invocation -- Joy Fenner, executive director, Texas WMU, Dallas
 Hymns
 Announcements
 Project Mission Hope: "Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted." -- Earl Potts, senior project consultant, Montgomery, Ala.; John King, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.; Will Hodge, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.
 Prayer of Intercession -- Ernest Myers, foreign missionary, CSI
 Testimony: "... do not forget to do good and to share with others ...", missions volunteer
 Testimony: "... what counts is a new creation." Mike Rouse, Exodus Ministry, Dallas
 Prayer of Intercession -- Rebecca Lewis, home missionary, El Paso, Texas
 Hymn
 Special Music -- One Voice, First Baptist Church, Houston
 Message: "... let us not love with words ... but with actions and truth." -- William A. Lawson, Jr., pastor, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston
 Prayer of Intercession -- John King, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.
 Closing Meditation -- Fred Wilmer, Choir, First Baptist Church, Houston

President, WMU, SBC -- Carolyn Miller, Huntsville, Ala.
 Executive Director, WMU, SBC -- Dellanna O'Brien, Birmingham, Ala.
 Director of music -- Gerald Ray, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Houston
 Organist -- John Hemmenway, First Baptist Church, Houston
 Pianists -- Joan Brunson and Pat Lilley, First Baptist Church, Houston

Kazakh Christian prays
 for Bible teachers

By Beth Sammons

Baptist Press
 4/15/93

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (BP)--Like the Ethiopian eunuch Philip found reading God's word in a desert, many people in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan have received the Word and are now simply waiting for a teacher.

Zhan, a Kazakh believer living in a city of more than a quarter of a million people in central Kazakhstan, can testify to that. Zhan has used the "Jesus" film, a movie portraying the life of Christ from Luke's Gospel, to share his new faith with Kazakhs living and working in villages, collective farms and chemical factories around his city.

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But as a new Christian himself, living in a country with very few Christian workers in proportion to the population, Zhan can only share what he knows. He prays that God will send a teacher to him and to the hundreds, if not thousands, who are hungry to understand the Bible.

He believes it's worth it to go miles and miles if people want to hear.

"These people have many questions," he said. "If I shared the film 100 times they would have 100 questions each time, because they were taught the same things from kindergarten, through school and university to the army. Now we are learning something new and we are filling our souls. The process of filling the emptiness is happening."

Zhan became a believer through the witness of a European Christian who visited his city in the summer of 1992. He received a Bible and found "all the questions about life are answered in it." He quickly grew to love what he calls "the Book."

"When you start a new thing it's difficult. As you begin to work in a new system it's stressful and tiring. But you can rest as you read the Book.

"You don't have to go to a restaurant and get a drink to rest. When I finish my job and go home, I put up my feet and read. The Book is good to read all the time, even at work ... you can find answers for your work."

Zhan loves to share scripture with others. When he reads and discusses the Bible with friends, everyone has different impressions and opinions. Because of his own limited understanding of the scripture and the sheer numbers wanting to study the Bible, teachers are needed desperately, he said.

Zhan said he knows of 40-45 Kazakhs in his city alone who read the Bible and believe it to be the true Word of God. He said they meet in small groups to discuss their insights and ask questions.

He said teachers are needed "who know the Bible well -- from the beginning to the end" -- and who can work with them and teach them at the same time and live like them.

"If a teacher is a worker with us -- for example a factory worker -- then after work the teacher can share with us."

He dreams of starting a Bible school in his city. "Maybe we should begin with teaching children," he said.

Zhan has taken over the "Jesus" film ministry European Christians started. Each weekend he travels to a different village or factory and, with permission from the local supervisor, rents a room and shows the film.

In the past six months he has shown the film to more than 15,000 Kazakhs.

After each showing, he distributes scripture and his telephone number to those who wish to call and discuss what they have read.

Zhan said many have called. One man who didn't have a phone traveled from his village to Zhan's house in the city.

"What I know, I tell others. But I know so little. Sometimes I can't find the words. I only know what I study in the Bible," he said.

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Mission worker seeks stride
on foreign missions trail

By Donald D. Martin

Baptist Press
4/15/93

KALANJE, Malawi (BP)--John Carter wore out a pair of hiking boots getting to Africa.

When the Virginia native knew he was bound for Malawi as an International Service Corps (ISC) worker, he quit his job, strapped on a backpack and walked the complete Appalachian Trail.

During a six-month hike along the trail that took him from Springer Mountain, Ga., to Mount Katahdin, Maine, Carter pounded a pair of stiff leather boots into suede-like scraps.

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The 2,000-mile trek was the perfect prerequisite for mission work in Africa, Carter asserted. Foreign Mission Board administrators haven't adopted this as an ISC requirement for overseas assignments. But they have adopted another requirement which greatly benefits Carter and others like him.

Since 1990, they have let those interested in career missions substitute an equivalent ISC assignment for the otherwise required church work in the United States.

Carter, 37, welcomed this option as it moved him closer to his desire of becoming a career missionary.

"I want to be a spiritual catalyst and give words of hope," Carter said, as he paused to search for words to elaborate. "It's hard for me to explain."

Yet in Kalanje, Malawi, he found that his long-term spiritual and career goals bowed to the work at hand as he struggled to define his ministry in a camp for refugees. In southern Malawi, Carter preached in this and other camps for refugees who have crossed the border from neighboring Mozambique.

The refugees have lost homes and seen family members killed -- and some have been tortured, he said. "I can help show them where hope is. God has given me joy and peace, and I want to tell them about that," he said.

Carter, on a recent visit to the Kalanje camp, home to 17,000 people near the Mozambique border, began another day of preaching. In his new hiking boots, he found a clearing in the camp's maze of small earthen huts and began to read from the Bible.

A crowd gathered quickly as he told a story from the Old Testament. Many were familiar with Old Testament stories because of their Muslim background. Most refugees in this 5-year-old camp were Yao, a predominantly Muslim tribe.

Carter spoke through an interpreter to people who used the surrounding huts' thatch-roof awnings to shade themselves from the noonday sun. In a shirt and tie, he was soon drenched in sweat as he talked.

His audience, as is often the case, wore clothing distributed by relief organizations. Some wore T-shirts advertising past World Cup soccer matches or long-forgotten trade shows. One man crossed the clearing to a shady spot wearing a black ski bib.

At the end of his sermon, Carter prayed, then said he would hand out evangelistic tracts. Men, women and children encircled him, clamored with outstretched hands, and quickly emptied his bag of yellow-and-green tracts.

Carter conceded most people in the camp are illiterate and scramble for the literature out of curiosity. But some people will keep the printed message and find someone to read it to them, he said.

"I want people to receive the word of God in a way that makes sense to them," he said. "That's what I pray before speaking. I'm still working through the process of learning how to present the gospel."

Life is hard in the Kalanje camp, as it is at many other refugee centers in Malawi, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Malawi alone cares for 1 million refugees. But those who find housing and food in the camps are fortunate. Other refugees live day to day not knowing where they will eat or sleep.

Until recently Mozambique has been locked in a civil war that started in the 1960s. It forced about 6 million to abandon their homes, killed 1 million and turned Mozambique into the world's poorest country. Sixty-five percent of its 15.6 million citizens live in absolute poverty.

But lasting peace is near. The two warring sides signed a peace agreement last October in Rome, opening the way for elections by the end of 1993.

Still, Mozambique's defunct economy and widespread banditry will assure continued occupancy at safe havens like the Kalanje camp. And until the camps close, Carter has work to do -- work he now realizes is far more complicated than he once believed.

"It's still overwhelming," Carter said of his experience in Malawi. "You come up against such trying situations, such harsh physical conditions."

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For example, in Mozambican fields less than two miles from the Kalanje camp, several people each month are maimed or killed in explosions of land mines left over from the war. Most are women searching for firewood. It's beyond Carter's comprehension to take such risks for a few sticks of wood. Yet these are the people with whom he hopes to relate and share his faith.

"You know, I left one trail and started on another," he said, as he warmed up to the imagery he has created. "God used a trail to prepare me for this place, but I'm still on a journey."

He looks at his new boots. "It's comforting to have on the same (type of) boots I had when I was on the trail," he concluded.

It's anyone's guess how much breaking-in lies ahead for the new boots -- or their owner.

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(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutlines available on SBCNet Newsroom.

Missionaries minister as world
comes to Dallas to play soccer

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
4/15/93

DALLAS (BP)--When civil unrest forced Duane and Kristy Falk to leave their missions assignment in Zaire, West Africa, they became missionaries in Dallas to a soccer team from the former Soviet Republic of Georgia.

The Falks were among Texas Baptist volunteers who served as hosts for 166 soccer teams from 21 states and 22 countries competing in the American Airlines Dallas Cup XIV in early April.

Another Southern Baptist foreign missionary, Fred Sorrells, itinerant missionary to Madagascar and the Indian Ocean islands, helped Dallas Association coordinate ministries to the visiting soccer teams and their fans.

Spring Valley Baptist Church, adjacent to the hotel in north Dallas where many of the soccer teams stayed, provided a hospitality center for the visitors.

One of the players told hospitality house coordinator Kay Maynard, "I feel love in this place."

A member of another team said, "We've traveled all over the world in international competition and have never seen hospitality like this."

Most teams stayed in the homes of local Dallas Cup participants, but to help the visitors who needed other lodging, church recreation Mission Service Corps volunteer Eugene Greer secured transportation and enlisted church members willing to open their homes to the young people.

Players from the Republic of Georgia were overwhelmed when they disembarked from the plane to be greeted by Falk with their national flag and a large team banner the Falks had made.

Then they discovered that the van which they were to use was not available. To their rescue came Lake Pointe Baptist Church, Rowlett, Texas, providing their church van with Falk serving as chauffeur all week.

Since the soccer players and coaches from the Republic of Georgia spoke little English, Nino Dashneli, a Dallas Theological Seminary student from their homeland, served as their translator.

The team barely qualified for the playoffs after losing their first match, but rallied to win the age 16 and under bracket.

"We want to go to our matches in the church van," they insisted, "because every time we go in the church van, we win."

As they departed for home, the players and coaches told the Falks, "If you come to Georgia, our homes will be your homes."

Several other churches provided buses to transport visiting teams to games and special events, and some Baptist volunteers took vacation time to serve at the hospitality center and as chaplain/encouragers for the visitors.

The coach of a team from Argentina was so impressed with the demonstration of Christian love that he asked for biblical materials to distribute to his players.

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As Bibles were being presented to players, one from Slovakia asked if he could have another Bible for his mother at home, said Sorrells.

Also, Dallas Baptist Association hosted an Easter sunrise service for the visiting teams at Lake Highlands High School in north Dallas.

Mobilizing volunteers for the Dallas Cup was good preparation for the summer of 1994 when Dallas serves as a host city for World Cup soccer competition, said Joe Mosley, associate director of missions for Dallas Baptist Association.

Dallas will serve as communications center for World Cup activities in several cities, from Buffalo, N.Y., to Pasadena, Calif. The 1,400 correspondents expected in Dallas for that event represent a missions challenge in themselves, Mosley said.

Sorrells, who will return with his wife, Samilee, to their missions assignment in Madagascar in May, is working with Southwestern Seminary to enlist basketball and volleyball teams to scrimmage Indian Ocean national teams in Madagascar and the Seychelles and Comoros Islands this summer.

"We are still looking for athletic trainers to serve with these national teams this summer," Sorrells said. Interested persons may call Dallas Association at (214) 324-2803.

Sorrells said the focus of sports evangelism for Texas Baptists this summer shifts southward where San Antonio Baptists are encouraging all Texas Baptists to help them "Lift the Light" during Olympic Festival '93, July 23-Aug. 1.

The San Antonio festival is expected to attract more than a half-million spectators and at least 4,200 athletes competing in 37 sports.

Rebecca Short, coordinator of Summer Ministries '93, encourages church and Baptist Student Union groups to plan summer mission trips to the Alamo City. For more information, call (210) 525-9954.

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Seminary Extension Center
aboard USS Kitty Hawk

By Lesley S. Vance

Baptist Press
4/15/93

ARABIAN GULF (BP)--Seminary Extension's Christian ethics course is helping the crew aboard the USS Kitty Hawk deal with everyday pressures of shipboard life.

"The present situation in the Gulf has made the students more aware of their faith and dependence on God," Lieutenant R. H. Scott, Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Naval Reserve, said. "Seminary Extension's Christian ethics class has become a format for discussing the causes of war and the concept of a just war."

The aircraft carrier has a crew of over 5000 men with an infrastructure similar to a city. Since January the USS Kitty Hawk has been participating in Operation Southern Watch in the Arabian Gulf, with its airwing constantly flying missions over southern Iraq. The USS Kitty Hawk carries eight different aircraft: Tomcat (fighter); Hornet (fighter/attacker); Intruder (attack); Prowler (electronic warfare); Viking (anti-submarine warfare); Hawkeye (air intercept information); Seahawk (helicopter anti-submarine warfare) and the Greyhound (transport/supply).

The chaplain department on board the USS Kitty Hawk began a Seminary Extension center to help the crew get a Christian education.

"Our chaplain department is dedicated to tending to the moral, emotional and spiritual well-being of our crew," Scott, one of three chaplains on board the ship, said. "Most students are highly motivated and make all our efforts worthwhile."

The lessons taught in the Seminary Extension classes have to apply to real issues in the crew's lives in order to maintain their interest. With the current political climate, the topic of homosexuality in the service has been an area of interest and discussion, Scott said.

"The Christian ethics class has helped me resolve issues I face daily -- living in close quarters, dealing with problem situations and communicating with people," a student on board the USS Kitty Hawk said.

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Many courses are being taught on board the USS Kitty Hawk. In addition to the Christian ethics course, systematic theology, Christian history, New Testament survey and The Early Church is being taught. Classes meet once a week for three hours in the ship's chapel. Each class has 18 to 30 students enrolled.

"Our Navy enlisted men are under financial pressures, stress from long-term family separation and difficult working conditions," Scott said. "The Seminary Extension classes have helped them grow spiritually and intellectually."

But the classes are also challenging. Many work 12-18 hours a day and have trouble finding time to prepare their lessons. Others work night shifts and must get up in the middle of their sleep to attend class, Scott explained.

The center on board the USS Kitty Hawk is one of more than 350 Seminary Extension centers.

"Although the center on board the USS Kitty Hawk is unique in its setting, it shows how Seminary Extension is flexible in meeting specific needs in specific places," Seminary Extension Center registrar Vivian Buttrey said.

At a center students are taught by a certified teacher. The teacher must be qualified in his or her spiritual development, teaching competence and subject matter. To teach Seminary Extension's college level courses the teacher must have a master's degree from a seminary, university or college. Seminary Extension also encourages centers to seek the best qualified teacher to instruct in its basic curriculum.

To start a Seminary Extension center or enroll in courses, call 1-800-229-4612. Seminary Extension is a service of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

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CORRECTION: Two photos mailed last week from the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press include pastor Randy Ivie. Mr. Ivie's name was misspelled in the cutlines.

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