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'God is not through with
Southern Baptists': Blackaby By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
7/19/93

ATLANTA (BP)--God is not through with Southern Baptists, but he expects them to repent and return to God, said Henry Blackaby.

Blackaby, Home Mission Board director of prayer and spiritual awakening, came to that conclusion during this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Four issues could have destroyed the SBC meeting, Blackaby said: the HMB's report on Freemasonry, the election of a Foreign Mission Board president, the role of Woman's Missionary Union and the motion to unseat messengers from President Bill Clinton's Arkansas church. Those items were handled smoothly, convincing Blackaby that God has a future for Southern Baptists, he said.

Yet Southern Baptists must choose to follow God's leadership, Blackaby told HMB directors during a dinner prior to their July meeting. "God's putting a spiritual plumb line down the middle of Southern Baptists," Blackaby said. "The plumb line is not whether we meet our goals, but whether we obey." Response to God's call for obedience will determine whether God blesses or judges Southern Baptists, Blackaby said.

Blackaby is encouraged because "never have I seen such a heart cry for revival as I'm seeing across the grass roots of Southern Baptists. I believe we're on the edge of one of the greatest spiritual awakenings the world has ever known."

Blackaby challenged HMB directors, as leaders of the SBC agency charged with a national plan for evangelism, to consider themselves responsible for this nation's spiritual awakening.

"Is America returning to the Lord? Are you holding yourselves accountable?" Blackaby asked. "The salvation of our country depends on the repentance of God's people."

In addition to repentance, Blackaby urged directors to "stand in the presence of God long enough to know what God wants you to do." Too often people are led to complete programs rather than follow God, he said.

"What we need is not more of what we have been doing, but a qualitatively different relationship with God," Blackaby said.

"When the presence of God fills the people of God, you have spiritual awakening Anything less than that will not spare America."

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Blackaby and Claude King, formerly on staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board, are co-authors of "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God." The material is one of the Sunday School Board's best sellers.

Newly released material by Blackaby and King addresses the need for revival and spiritual awakening. Titled "A Fresh Encounter," the series calls for churches to make a corporate response to God, Blackaby said. The goal is for pastors to know how to lead churches back to God, he said.

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Missouri Baptists assess
needs ahead in flood's wake

Baptist Press
7/19/93

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Unpredictable flooding from rivers and streams was paralyzing more and more areas in Missouri by the hour in the past week, constantly pushing the billion-dollar damage estimate higher.

The Missouri Baptist Convention missions department is beginning to coordinate cleanup crews in anticipation of the tremendous effort that will be needed once water recedes. State officials estimate between 10,000 and 12,000 evacuations in Missouri, but they say it is too early to tell the number of homes damaged and acreage flooded. Eleven deaths have been recorded -- the most in the seven-state Midwest region fighting heavy rains and record-setting flood levels.

President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore toured eastern Missouri along the Mississippi River the weekend of July 16 while Gov. Mel Carnahan viewed flooding on several portions of the Missouri River.

Forty-nine counties have been declared federal disaster sites, as has the city of St. Louis. Clinton's declaration for those flooded counties makes federal assistance available in the form of rent for temporary housing, grants for minimal repairs to primary residences, unemployment payments for workers who have temporarily lost their jobs and low-interest loans for businesses, farm and other property losses. The president has asked for \$2.5 billion in aid to help rebuild the Midwest.

Don Wideman, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, said many state conventions have offered to send volunteers.

"Our number one priority is meeting needs in the churches and areas affected by this mess," Wideman said in an organizational meeting to centralize MBC flood relief.

Missouri Baptist Convention is continuing to operate food distribution in conjunction with the American Red Cross at three sites -- Edmundson Road Baptist Church, St. Louis; Winfield public schools, Winfield; and First Baptist Church, Weston, in the Kansas City area. Winfield and Weston volunteers continue to send out hundreds of meals a day. Food distribution at Edmundson Road is pushing 4,000 meals per day. Several churches across the state have volunteered independently to work with Red Cross in food distribution and housing for flood victims.

The Missouri National Guard has called out more than 1,000 soldiers to help with sandbagging and to patrol areas threatened by looting -- the third-largest callout in 60 years. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is scattering around the state to assess damage costs. FEMA distributes the federal government aid in the form of low-interest loans to build back homes and communities.

Don Anders, associate in the MBC missions department, said the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has sent \$20,000 for hunger relief and is standing by to offer more relief as needs are made known. Those funds are sent to associations and churches operating food distribution independent of the Red Cross. So far, the St. Joseph, Cape Girardeau and Mt. Salem-Wyaconda associations have requested hunger relief.

"I anticipate we will have to request \$30,000 to \$40,000 more in hunger relief before this is over," Anders said. He added once water recedes and damage can be assessed, the HMB will send disaster relief money to help flood victims. The disaster money from the HMB is matched by the state convention.

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Anders predicted cleanup would not be possible for at least three to five weeks.

Disaster relief funds from the HMB are sent to Anders' office and are allocated to a special disaster relief account set up in associations needing money. Anders and the associational officers work together with Red Cross to distribute aid. He said the consultation with Red Cross helps prevent duplicated aid. Often Red Cross will give Baptist disaster relief coordinators a list of people with needs Red Cross cannot meet.

"The association gives the check to a local church, which then personally delivers the check to a particular individual or family," Anders said. "That way it becomes a ministry for the church."

Anders said the relief money to victims goes for a variety of needs -- prescription medicines, construction, buying new appliances, etc.

Carla Stegeman in the missions education and ministry development team office has been designated the contact person for convention information on volunteering to help victims in flooded areas. Convention officials are reporting enough volunteers are stationed in the Baptist relief feeding centers. Once cleanup begins, however, masses will be needed to get the job done, Anders said.

"It will take hundreds and hundreds and hundreds to work on this," he said. "We've got 1,000 miles of river flooding."

Interested volunteers should call Stegeman at 314-635-7931, ext. 444. Potential volunteers also are urged to get diphtheria and tetanus shots because most of the water is contaminated and could pose a danger.

John Dowdy, director of the MBC missions/evangelism division, said people must realize the magnitude of the cleanup effort.

"Missouri people have been very good to help, but after the news flashes are over in three to four weeks, it is going to be tough, tough, tough to get helpers," Dowdy said. "Baptists in this state have been very good to volunteer."

Dowdy emphasized it is best to call the convention disaster relief command post for an assignment.

"It is a proven fact volunteers who just show up on the scene end up being in the way," he said. "Volunteers need to work through a coordinator to be assigned special tasks in special places."

People interested in sending donations should write checks payable to Missouri Baptist Convention disaster relief. Anders noted money sent to the Missouri Missions Offering also will be used for disaster relief.

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14 Missouri churches
affected by flooding

By Shari Schubert

Baptist Press
7/19/93

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--At least 14 Missouri Baptist church buildings have been directly hit by some of the worst flooding ever in the state, some seriously damaged. But overall, the damage to church buildings is perhaps less than might have been expected, considering the path of devastation that now lies along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

A number of churches in otherwise flooded areas escaped damage by virtue of being built on hills.

Reported damage to churches ranged from a few inches of water in basements to several feet of water drenching sanctuaries and other facilities. Some churches which were not directly affected still have had worship and other activities disrupted because flooded roads cut them off from their members.

Among the hardest hit was Alexandria Baptist Church at Alexandria. "All you can see is the roof above water," reported Jim Wainwright, director of missions for Mt. Salem-Wyaconda Association.

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The extent of damage is not known at this point. Members were able to get the furniture out of the building before the flood hit, said pastor Don Waterman, but he speculated the building itself is "pretty much ruined." Even if the building is not damaged beyond repair, he said, "we'll probably have to go back to the studs and start over."

No decision will be made about what to do until the water goes down and damage can be fully evaluated, and that may be fall or even winter, Waterman said. "All we can do is wait, and it's going to be a long wait."

In the meantime, the Alexandria congregation has been offered the use of the Old Stone Baptist Church in St. Francisville. Currently owned by the Clark County Historical Society, the building is the county's oldest landmark. The building was last used for regular services in 1952, and remains basically the same as it was when it was built in about 1860.

A little dusting and cleaning was all that was necessary to make the building ready for use by the Alexandria congregation, which held services there Sunday, Waterman said.

The water didn't make it to the roof of Hartsburg Baptist Church, Hartsburg, but it did rise high enough to do considerable damage.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thomas said they and other members worked at the church from 12:30 to 2 a.m. the night two weeks ago when rains brought on flash flooding. They moved furnishings from the sanctuary to the educational wing -- which sets considerably higher than the sanctuary -- hoping the water level would not climb that far.

That was not the case, however. A levee broke, allowing areas of the town which have never flooded in the past to fill up with water.

Because the pews were stacked on top of each other, all but the six on the bottom were saved from the water, Thomas said. The pulpit furniture, organ and piano were put on top of tables, and were not damaged. The extent of damage to floors and walls is not yet known.

Hartsburg Baptist Church and Peace United Church of Christ in Hartsburg have been worshiping together the past two Sundays at facilities that also have been used as relief centers. Currently, the town's fire station is being used for that purpose.

Members of the Hartsburg congregation were to meet tonight to begin assessing damage and determining priorities for recovery efforts, Thomas said.

But attention to the church building is not the only flood-related problem members must be concerned with. "So many of our members are in this flood and have their own homes to see to, too," Mrs. Thomas said.

Noting many of the church members are older people, Mrs. Thomas said the church undoubtedly will need outside help with the cleanup and repairs.

In the St. Louis area, members of First Baptist Church of Festus-Crystal City have been involved in a massive effort to fortify the building against the rising waters of the Mississippi. Sandbaggers have worked around the clock, some even sleeping in the building.

The church was surrounded by water on three sides, leaving one back entrance still accessible by road. Water leaked into the basement, but workers were successful in pumping it back out as fast as it came in.

Help has come from numerous sources, including the National Guard, pastors from other St. Louis association churches, and volunteers from the community. First Baptist Church of Rolla -- two hours drive away -- sent groups four times last week to help, reported Jerry Frazier, minister of education and youth.

The church has continued to hold worship services in the building, using buses to shuttle people from a parking lot a few blocks away. A formal wedding and funeral were held in the building even though most of the parking lot was two to three feet under water and flood control efforts had to continue even during the ceremonies and reception.

As businesses as close to the church as just across the street have been forced to shut down, "there's a sense of losing control," observed Festus-Crystal City pastor Richard Adams. He said the church is doing everything it can to maintain "business as usual," anything people in the community can look to as having a sense of stability.

The church did cancel its upcoming youth and family mission trips, however, Frazier said. "We're all just worn out," he admitted.

First Baptist Church of Hardin fared better than most of the surrounding community, where half or more of the townspeople were forced to evacuate, said pastor Chris Cox. Damage to the church building was limited to water in the basement, which was being pumped out. Services were not held July 14 or 18 because it was not possible to get in and out of the town in conventional vehicles, Cox said. Streets still could be negotiated in some four-wheel drive vehicles.

Cox, whose home also had some water in the basement, had relocated to the home of his father Walter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Carrollton, and was trying to track down church members who had been forced out of their homes. Trying to minister in such a situation is frustrating, he acknowledged.

Other reports of flood damage include:

Cedar City Baptist Church in North Jefferson City: Floodwaters rose past the basement, which had been emptied in anticipation of the flood, and inundated the sanctuary. Damage to pews and other furnishings is expected.

First Baptist Church, Chamois: Water entered the sanctuary and classrooms, necessitating some cleanup, but the church was able to worship in the building this past Sunday.

First Baptist Church, Rosendale: Pastor Abe Penner described damage to the church as minimal, with only the basement flooded, but said damage to other buildings in the community was severe.

Other churches reported to have flooding in buildings or parsonages included Brunswick Baptist Church, Brunswick; First Baptist Church, Clarksville; First Baptist Church, Pattonsburg; Lupus Baptist Church, Jamestown; Missouri City Baptist Church, Missouri City; Tracy Baptist Church, Platte City; and Windsor Baptist Church, Imperial.

Individuals or churches interested in helping with cleanup and repair efforts may contact Don Anders, associate in the Missouri Baptist Convention missions department, 400 E. High St., Jefferson City, MO 65101; phone 314-635-7931, ext. 514.

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**Flood sparks closer kinship
between WMU, Brotherhood**

By Tim Palmer

**Baptist Press
7/19/93**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Not that the two traditional stalwarts of the local Baptist Church -- Woman's Missionary Union and men's Brotherhood -- weren't friends already.

But the Southern Baptist men's organization's ever-growing involvement in disaster relief means an ever-growing demand for volunteers, especially when the disaster is of the magnitude of the Great Flood of 1993. And who better to supply workers than the Southern Baptist women's organization, especially at a time when WMU is stressing hands-on missions activity?

"It has really been wonderful working with the Brotherhood," said Edmundson Road Baptist Church WMU director Donna Potts July 17. "It's something that we've needed to do." Potts took a break from her kitchen duties Saturday morning to talk about the Red Cross/Baptist relief effort at Edmundson Road, where an estimated 700 volunteers had prepared more than 43,000 meals for flood victims and workers over the previous two weeks.

"I think we've all found that we can't do any of this by ourselves," Potts said in the church gymnasium. At neighboring tables, volunteers filled sandwich bags with potato chips, poured banana pudding into large glass pans, and spread peanut butter and jelly on some of the 5,000 sandwiches that would be made that day.

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Potts, who spent four years as associational WMU director for St. Louis Metro Association, said traditionally WMU has had its projects, Brotherhood has had its projects and "never the twain shall meet, type of thing."

Through the spring and summer flood relief efforts at Edmundson Road, she noted, the two organizations have discovered they can work together, they can accomplish a lot together "and that we need each other."

Besides preparing food, Potts noted, Baptist girls and women have gone along on deliveries. "They're actually doing some hands-on feeding the hungry."

Jim Albers, state disaster relief director for the Missouri Baptist Convention, used a food metaphor to acknowledge the women's role.

"Truthfully, Monday through Friday they are our bread and butter," Albers said. "They'll outnumber the men three-to-one."

Bob Nowlin, director of church and community ministries for St. Louis Association, has been scheduling volunteers for the feeding center at Edmundson Road.

"Most of the volunteers are women," he confirmed. "And many of them are retired people."

Marjorie Aulgur was one of two dozen volunteers from Hazelwood Baptist Church, Hazelwood, working at Edmundson Road July 19. She and WMU member Iva Lanier helped line up the workers after learning of the need at the annual associational WMU meeting July 8 at Fee Fee Baptist Church, Bridgeton.

"You want to help and you don't know how to help sometimes," Aulgur remarked. "This works good." She noted some people aren't able to fill sandbags, but they can cut carrots, which she was doing.

Albers pointed out over the past 25 years, Southern Baptist involvement in disaster relief has grown from "a couple of soup kitchens and 18-wheel trailers" to an international outreach that has responded to disasters from Florida to Hawaii and to Russia and Iran.

Brotherhood sees limitless possibilities for disaster relief, Albers said. High-tech innovations such as "flyaway kitchens" -- portable kitchens that load onto a pallet and travel by cargo plane -- and water purification units improve response time and benefit.

"But at the very roots it's these kitchens," said Albers, gesturing around the Edmundson Road church gym and kitchen. "Men and women working side by side."

At Edmundson Road church, Baptists are working side by side with people from other denominations and from the community as well. Potts said people have wandered in from the neighborhood to see what's going on. "We wash their hands, give 'em some gloves and put 'em to work."

Not all of Potts' and Albers' time has been taken up with food preparation and supply. Potts is a hairdresser by trade. Albers, who said he was starting to look a little shaggy, asked her one day last week if she could give him a trim. She obliged.

And unlike Delilah's shearing of Samson, this particular haircut just might symbolize a gain in strength and usefulness to God's kingdom for two Baptist organizations -- Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood.

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EDITORS' NOTE: The following story updates (BP) story titled "Illinois Baptists keep cooking while Mississippi River rises," dated 7/14/93.

Illinois Baptists keep cooking
while Mississippi River rolls

By Ferrell Foster

Baptist Press
7/19/93

PLEASANT HILL, Ill. (BP)--A giant, gleaming ribbon of plastic stretches from north to south to mark the top of a recently heightened levee. Men and women, like ants on an ant hill, scurry here and there on one side of the earthen works. On the other, the brown waters of the Mississippi River speed southward.

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Down river several miles, about 50 people in the town of Mozier are cut off by the rising river waters. They have no levee to protect their homes.

The workers along the levee, stranded residents in Mozier and hundreds of others in western Illinois have been eating meals cooked with Southern Baptist hands for more than two weeks.

Illinois Baptists' Brotherhood has set up its mobile disaster unit in Pleasant Hill, which is at the edge of "the bottoms" several miles east of the river.

The Baptist involvement is part of the larger Red Cross disaster relief effort. Illinois Baptists cook hot meals that are loaded into Red Cross vehicles and taken to various sites along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. There, volunteers in boats, trucks and all-terrain vehicles carry the food to hungry people.

Preparation of the meals is Baptists' most-visible response as a group, but there are individual Baptists up and down the river who also have pitched in to help the volunteer efforts.

The Illinois disaster unit arrived in Pleasant Hill on Saturday, July 3. Through July 18, the Baptists had prepared about 65,700 hot meals, with the daily servings reaching as high as 7,900, according to Rob Carr, state Brotherhood Services director.

More than 20 Baptists were working at the unit July 18, and Carr said a total of 65 people have worked at the mobile kitchen during its two weeks of operation in Pleasant Hill.

The Brotherhood unit is prepared to stay in operation there through Aug. 1, Carr said. But that could change.

At most disaster sites, the Baptist crews serve meals at the unit and also ship out food on Red Cross trucks called ERVs (emergency response vehicles). In Pleasant Hill, however, there is no serving line at the unit. Virtually all of the food is being taken, via ERVs, to the people in need.

To get the food into Mozier, Red Cross volunteers put servings into covered containers, then local residents load the food -- along with fruit, drinks and the daily mail -- into an aluminum boat. The local people then take the food to each home where residents remain along flooded Highway 96.

Flooding is not unusual in the area, but Vicki Angel said this is "the first time Mozier has gotten any help."

There is only one church in town, the Church of Christ. A Christian church closed down some time ago.

At the levee, the hard work of sand-bagging produces hardy appetites and big thirsts. The men and women there have dark brown, red-tinted skin as a brand from the hot sun. Shirts are wet with perspiration. An arrival of a basket of tomatoes produces excitement.

"We've got the best levees along the Mississippi," said Pleasant Hill resident Jerry Rodhouse. "The livelihood of all of western Illinois depends on this" effort to save the levees.

The bottom land that stretches out between Pleasant Hill and the river is filled with acres of corn, beets and wheat. Those crops are on land that would be underwater if not for the levees.

"A lot of this crop hasn't been paid for yet," Rodhouse said. "This crop has to come in or (the farmers) are done."

The "goodness of the volunteers" is appreciated, added Rodhouse, who is a Methodist, "especially those who are sending prayers."

HMB volunteer witnesses
to Jehovah's Witnesses

By Kelly G. Capers

DANVILLE, Va. (BP)--Former Jehovah's Witness George Kesterson says many Jehovah's Witnesses find themselves "wandering in the wilderness."

Raised a Southern Baptist, Kesterson became a Jehovah's Witness at age 12. Not until 21 years later did he remember his childhood teaching, disassociate with the cult and go back to basics. As a Home Mission Board volunteer, he operates Watching the Watchtower ministries to inform people of Jehovah's Witness philosophy.

The first Mission Service Corps volunteer assigned to interfaith witness, Kesterson says when he fell on hard times "I remembered the peace I had known when I heard about Jesus."

With his years as a Jehovah's Witness behind him, Kesterson teaches Southern Baptists to witness to the Witness.

One way Kesterson educates people is through recorded telephone messages offering information on Witness practice and philosophy. The concise messages change each Friday and discuss various aspects of the cult. The messages are designed to show how Witnesses are deceived without condemning them.

Kesterson hopes pointing out contradictions will start Witnesses questioning their religion and will motivate Christians to reach out to cult followers.

Currently, 1,200 to 1,500 people hear the message each month, at a rate of about 45 callers a day.

Motivated by a desire to help the disenfranchised, Kesterson says of former Witnesses, "They are waiting for someone to come along and help them put their lives back together."

Two lives Kesterson has helped mend are Margaret Nelson and Estelle Brown.

A devout Jehovah's Witness for 30 years, Nelson was disfellowshipped from the cult for smoking. Involving a process of shunning, disfellowshipping divides friends and families.

After being led to become a Jehovah's Witness by her husband, Nelson thrust herself wholeheartedly into her faith. Raising her family in the Witness tradition, she denied her children birthday parties, holiday celebrations and participation in school functions.

"It makes me sick to my stomach to think about what I did to them," she says.

When she was turned away from the group, even her husband refused to associate with her.

Echoing her sentiment, friend Estelle Brown laments her 42 years of association with the local Kingdom Hall.

"I've apologized to my children because I hurt them so badly," says Brown.

Brown also was disfellowshipped for smoking. For years she was not allowed to hold her grandchildren because she was shunned.

Feeling betrayed by people they trusted, both women regret giving so much of their lives to a religion that gave so little back.

"When we were disfellowshipped, nobody showed us love," says Brown.

Nelson and Brown are constant reminders to Kesterson of the pain Witnesses feel when severed from their religion.

"Witnesses dearly love their religion," he says. Unfortunately, it is a religion of expectation and salvation through works and, says Kesterson, is inconsistent.

"The rules change," he says. "The Bible means whatever the elders say it means at the time. God changes his mind all the time."

This inconsistency creates continuous jeopardy for followers who try to live by truth.

"As Christians," says Kesterson, "we realize we aren't saved by knowledge. We're saved by faith."

Those interested in hearing the recorded messages can call 1-800-777-1246. For more information on the cult, contact the Home Mission Board interfaith witness department at (404) 898-7404.

**Interfaith Witness offers
suggestions for sharing faith By Kelly G. Capers**

ATLANTA (BP)--Because beliefs of Jehovah's Witness theology deviate from basic biblical theology, Christians are challenged to have a clear understanding of salvation to share effectively the love of Christ.

The Home Mission Board interfaith witness department offers 10 suggestions on witnessing to Witnesses.

- Have a clear understanding of your faith and the Bible.
- Be prepared to explain specific verses to support Christian doctrine.
- Have basic knowledge of Jehovah's Witness teachings. A Southern Baptist Home Mission Board "Belief Bulletin" on Jehovah's Witnesses, for example, is available by calling 1-800-634-2462.
- Have a definite plan to keep the initiative during an encounter.
- Define your terms clearly.
- Try to establish a personal relationship with Jehovah's Witnesses with whom you share your faith.
- Center conversation on the person and work of Christ; stress the need for a personal relationship.
- Share your personal testimony and faith.
- Be prepared to present the plan of salvation and call for a decision.
- Trust the Holy Spirit to lead you.

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**Successful youth ministry
needs leader organization**

By Terri Lackey

**Baptist Press
7/19/93**

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--While youth ministry and organization may seem to be opposites to some youth leaders, getting organized is the key to a successful youth ministry, a youth specialist said during Discipleship and Family Development Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Todd Nelson, youth specialist in the Sunday School Board's discipleship and family adult department, said an attempt at structure goes a long way in impressing church leaders.

"It's important that you build integrity into your youth ministry," he told youth ministers. "But it's also important to realize that you can't ride in on a white horse and have everything working like you want it within six months."

Getting started means getting organized, he said, suggesting first developing a purpose statement, "starting with where you are, not with where you want to be."

"A purpose statement defines vision and gives direction," Nelson said. "It should be clear, concise and easy to repeat."

"You also need a job description for yourself and all of your volunteers." Job descriptions allow people to know exactly what they are suppose to do, he said.

Nelson also suggested church youth ministers evaluate what they are doing now. "Ask youth and parents what they need. There might be some activities you can get rid of if they aren't helping anybody. And there might be some you can add."

Nelson told the youth ministers to take time to dream.

"Go out one afternoon and spend time fantasizing about what you could do in your ministry. Then come back home, get back to reality and implement some of the things you dreamed about."

By starting slow and small, "and not always getting caught up in the numbers," Nelson said they could form a solid youth ministry program.

"Just don't lose sight of your vision, and be sure to communicate that vision to the people in your church -- especially the pastor. People want to know what you are doing. Three words that make a ministry work are 'communicate, communicate, communicate.'"

Discipleship and Family Development Conference at Ridgecrest was July 17-23.

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National WMU staff
bring girls to work

By Susan Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Spending the day at Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and seeing where her mother works was "more fun than I've had in a 100 years," said 7-year-old Andrea Young.

Young was one of 17 first- through sixth-graders who accepted the invitation of the national Girls in Action staff to spend the day at the WMU office. The GA staff, who plan and produce materials to be used by members of the missions organization for elementary-age girls, planned July 15 as a special day for daughters, grand-daughters, sisters and nieces of WMU employees.

Julie Graham's favorite part of the day was getting to eat lunch with her dad, Barry, an artist at WMU.

Jamie Woods, whose sister, Lory, is an order entry clerk, liked meeting Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director.

O'Brien spent about an hour with the girls answering questions about her stint as a foreign missionary to Indonesia.

When asked about what she does now at WMU, O'Brien told them, "My office gets letters, so I write lots of letters. I go to meetings. I do a lot of planning and I travel a lot.

"I never get bored. I never get bored."

O'Brien wrapped up her time with them by expressing appreciation for their mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, grandmothers and others who work at WMU.

"We're so grateful for your mothers and daddies and aunts and sisters," she said. "They do important work here. You can be really proud of the work they do for God and Southern Baptists."

The girls also did some work of their own during the day. They were asked by the WMU staff responsible for developing GA products and novelty items to help select a product to be developed during the next year -- choosing between items such as a friendship bracelet, a key chain, a headband and a pen.

And the girls assembled goodie bags for patients at a local hospital.

Hannah Smothers enjoyed meeting chaplain Alan Swindall of Children's Hospital who came to receive the 50 bags.

"I liked meeting the people who put together our magazines," said Jenny Frederick, whose aunt, Kristy Carr, is editorial assistant for the GA magazines.

Barbara Massey, editor of the GA magazine, Discovery, and the GA leader magazine, Aware, led the girls in seeing how those magazines are produced. Massey, along with GA specialist Syliva DeLoach, organized the special day for the girls.

The round-the-world geochron clock hanging in a hallway of the WMU building was Mandy Stracner's favorite part of the day. Stracner's grandmother, Jeanette, is WMU's publishing services section secretary.

"I liked the map that tells when it's day and night," she said. The geochron is a map which shows the time of day around the world. It includes shading across the areas where it is nighttime.

Perhaps Gloria Fite, whose aunt, Carole, is language editorial assistant, summed it up best.

"I liked everything," she said.

HOUSE MAIL

The logo consists of the letters 'BP' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a black rectangular border.

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