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July 30, 1993

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Money, supplies, people needed  
for ongoing cleanup efforts

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

ATLANTA (BP)--To assist flood victims and cleanup efforts in the Midwest, send money, send supplies or send yourself, say disaster relief coordinators.

"We need people with shovels, water hoses and bleach," said Steve Melvin, home missionary and Brotherhood director for Iowa Southern Baptists.

Volunteers for ongoing cleanup projects will be coordinated by the Home Mission Board's short-term volunteer department. State conventions are using a computer program written by HMB staff to track where volunteers are working and where volunteers are needed.

To volunteer, contact the HMB volunteer department at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

Brotherhood volunteers are serving food and beginning the "mud-out" process. In addition, four Southern Baptist chaplains are working with disaster relief feeding units to minister to people being fed.

The Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and state conventions in affected areas are accepting financial contributions for disaster relief. The Brotherhood Commission is seeking donations to offset the cost of a \$25,000 water purification unit.

The Home Mission Board also purchased a \$25,000 water purification unit, plus provided \$90,000 from disaster and hunger relief funds.

Disaster relief funds can be spent for items such as bedding and medicine. Hunger relief funds are used only for food. Neither fund is used for administrative costs.

Money sent to the Home Mission Board can be earmarked for specific states. Money designated for disaster relief or hunger relief but not for a certain state is distributed based on requests from state Baptist conventions.

Checks sent through the Home Mission Board for disaster relief or hunger relief can be mailed to 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

Contributions to the Brotherhood Commission can be sent to 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104.

Materials needed for cleanup projects include disinfectant, bleach, detergent, mops and extra mop heads, brooms, heavy-duty squeegees and gloves, square-nosed shovels, rubber boots, heavy-duty hoses, chain saws, sump pumps, high-pressure nozzles, hammers, saws, sheetrock, lumber and nails.

Donations can be sent to a warehouse in St. Louis. Lance Long, area campus minister, suggested people call before they send supplies to be sure the items they intend to send are still needed. For information, call the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association at (314) 569-1190.

Iowa Southern Baptists do not need shovels, rubber boots, rubber gloves, chain saws or saws, said Richard Lamborn, state director of missions. They do need other cleaning items, plus ready-to-eat baby formula, non-perishable food, personal hygiene products, blankets, children's summer clothes, adult work clothes, diapers, linens, garbage cans and stuffed animals for children.

Lamborn also suggested donors call first to be sure their items are still needed. He can be reached at (515) 278-1566.

Illinois Baptists do not yet have a system to receive supplies.

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Flood response enters second month  
as more states, volunteers respond By Steve Barber

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist response to the flood disaster in the American Midwest has entered its second month with calls for more individual volunteers to clean up in Iowa and the arrival of two more state convention feeding units along the Mississippi River.

"We're still going to need men and women volunteers coming in continuously for the next two to three weeks," said Ronnie O'Neal, the Arkansas Baptist Convention Brotherhood associate coordinating relief efforts in the Davenport, Iowa, area.

Volunteers also are still needed in Des Moines, but not as many, according to Steve Melvin, director of Brotherhood for the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

Total numbers of individuals who responded to a mid-July call for volunteers in the two cities were not yet available, but O'Neal and Melvin said more would be needed in the weeks ahead.

Prospective volunteers must contact either O'Neal or Melvin before setting out. Those who wish to serve in Davenport should call O'Neal at the Arkansas Baptist Convention office in Little Rock, (501) 376-4791, ext. 5158. After Aug. 3, they should call O'Neal at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Davenport, (319) 326-0945. Steve Melvin may be contacted in Des Moines at (515) 278-1566.

The Arkansas Baptist Convention is assisting the Iowans as they manage a disaster response for the first time. The Arkansas convention is in partnership with the Iowa fellowship.

Elsewhere, state convention feeding units from Oklahoma and South Carolina arrived the week of July 26 to reinforce units already in place from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee.

The South Carolina units were located in historic St. Genevieve, Mo., where floodwater continued to threaten numerous French colonial structures. The Oklahoma unit is at First Baptist Church in Troy, Mo., northwest of St. Louis.

Jim Albers, disaster relief coordinator for the Missouri Baptist Convention, said one of the teams from South Carolina has been unable to cook any food for two days because the Department of Natural Resources there would not approve the water. Albers said water was having to be sent in from Memphis, Tenn., because DNR had not inspected the feeding team's water purification unit before the flood.

Southern Baptist relief efforts are continuing in nine areas across the Midwest -- five of which are in Missouri. Jim Furgerson, disaster relief coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, reported that 90,000 meals had been prepared by Baptist relief groups from July 23 to 29. The major feeding site at Edmundson Road Church in St. Louis was levelling off meal production by the end of the week but reported more than 300,000 meals served since opening its doors July 2.

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Albers said volunteers are no longer needed for feeding units, but cleanup crews are being assembled and put on a waiting list to be dispatched whenever the rivers calm down. He said supplies for cleaning and construction are still needed.

With the exception of the Illinois unit, which moved from Pleasant Hill, Ill., near Quincy to Alton, Ill., over the July 24-25 weekend, all other state units remained at their original locations. They are: Indiana, in Davenport, Iowa; Kentucky, Quincy, Ill.; Missouri, St. Louis (two locations); North Carolina, Hannibal, Mo.; Ohio, Des Moines, Iowa; and Tennessee, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

One of two water purification units purchased by the Brotherhood Commission and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board was moved to Alton, Ill., to be used by the Illinois volunteers. The other remained in service at Ankeny, Iowa, in suburban Des Moines. Each unit can purify 50,000 gallons of water every 24 hours.

The Brotherhood Commission has requested that, for now, cleanup supplies be shipped to a warehouse in St. Louis. Contributors should contact Jim McCaughn or Bob Nowland at the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association at (314) 569-1190.

Supplies needed include disinfectant, bleach, detergent, mops and extra mopheads, brooms, heavy-duty squeegees, square-nosed shovels, rubber boots and heavy-duty rubber gloves. Also needed are chain saws, sump pumps, heavy-duty hoses, high-pressure nozzles, hammers, saws, gypsum wallboard, lumber and nails.

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Laurie Lattimore contributed to this story.

**Baptists in Illinois active  
in flood relief operations**

**By Bill Webb**

**Baptist Press  
7/30/93**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--Baptist volunteers in Illinois continue feeding ministries to flood victims and volunteer workers even as they plan their responses during the next stage of the Flood of '93 -- ministering to affected families and churches when floodwater recedes.

Swarms of volunteers undergird the two state Baptist disaster relief feeding units -- Illinois, stationed at Calvary Baptist Church in Alton, and Kentucky, based at First Southern Baptist Church in Quincy. Both units are providing food primarily to sandbaggers and other volunteers.

Through July 29, during less than a week in Alton, the Illinois unit had prepared 22,000 meals with another 6,000 ordered for July 30. According to site coordinator Thurman Stewart, fully half the energies of 200 volunteers, including members of the host church and people from across Alton Industrial Baptist Association, had been given to a loading dock operation to distribute case upon case of juices, canned water, soft drinks, milk and other liquids to volunteers along threatened levees.

The unit also expected to have a water purification unit from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission up and running to provide water for the feeding unit's operation. The city of Alton is in its second week under a boil order. The purification unit is one of two used earlier in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Illinois operation left Pleasant Hill, a community protected by the 52-mile levee, July 23 after three weeks of providing hot meals from Quincy southward. During that operation, 98 Baptist volunteers prepared 78,000 meals, as many as 10,000 a day at the peak.

Two days after the Illinois unit left Pleasant Hill, a section of the levee to the north gave way, flooding the town of Hull, home to about 500 people.

The Kentucky unit, which arrived in Quincy July 21, had prepared 13,774 meals through July 29. As the needs for meals increase in the area, the unit will be prepared to handle them, said site coordinator C.A. Easterling.

The kitchen unit already in Illinois can handle 15,000 meals a day. Kentucky's No. 1 unit, capable of 50,000 meals a day, is on standby in Kentucky, and a third unit capable of 15,000 meals, also is available, he said.

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Kentucky volunteers are making plans to assist in the "mud-out" and cleanup operation in the area when floodwater recedes, Easterling said.

"We got all five of our water pumps primed and two more are coming," he said. Once water is pumped from basements, volunteers from Kentucky who have brought boots with them plan to engage in cleanup. "They want to get their feet in the mud," he said.

In addition to the meals, Kentucky Baptists have distributed 2,320 personal kits containing toiletry items for men, women and children. Eleven volunteers participated in sandbagging operations at Meredosia, Easterling said. In all, the unit has utilized 79 different Kentucky volunteers.

At the southern tip of Illinois, "soft levees and tremendous boils," leaks that surface from pressure under the levees, have forced evacuations for at least six churches: First Baptist in Grand Tower, Galilee at Wolf Lake, Ware and Reynoldsville at Jonesboro and East Cape at McClure, according to Jerry Ford, moderator for Clear Creek Baptist Association.

Lake Milligan Baptist Church was flooded earlier when a levee gave at Miller City, Ill.

Thousands of volunteers from Clear Creek churches have been mobilized to assist in sandbagging efforts and to provide meals to volunteers, Ford said.

For nearly two weeks, churches have been responsible for preparing meals to feed 300 people a day -- most of them sandbaggers and other volunteers at the Olive Branch Community Center.

At First Baptist Church in Joy, in northern Illinois, plans continue for mobilizing Baptist volunteers for cleanup at nearby Keithsburg, where 170 homes were affected by water when the Pope River levee gave way three weeks ago.

Pastor John Mattingly said few people in the area know very much about Baptists, but he hopes his congregation can change that through effective post-flood ministry, involving his church, New Hope Baptist Chapel in Keithsburg and Baptists from the outside.

He envisions five-person cleanup crews to help families in the hard-hit river town to reclaim their homes. Among other needs will be water pumps and cleaning supplies for the massive task, he said.

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Senate committee approves Elders;  
'unacceptable,' CLC's Land says      By Tom Strode

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--Joycelyn Elders, President Clinton's nominee for surgeon general of the United States, cleared an important hurdle to confirmation when the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee approved her July 30.

The vote was 13-4, with Republican senators Dan Coats of Indiana, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and Orrin Hatch of Utah opposing her.

The full Senate is expected to vote on her confirmation by Aug. 6, when the next recess begins.

The committee's approval was the first vote on the nominee who has produced sharp division over her outspoken comments as well as her record as director of the Arkansas Department of Health since 1987. In addition to criticizing pro-life advocates, she has espoused taxpayer funding of abortion, condom distribution in public schools and sex education in all primary and secondary grades.

"Dr. Elders' advocacy of condom distribution through the public schools and comments such as advising pro-life advocates to 'get over their love affair with the fetus' make her nomination to be surgeon general of the United States unacceptable to the majority of Southern Baptists," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "My prayer is that we will never get over our love affair with unborn babies as well as born babies."

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Some committee members said their constituents expressed overwhelming opposition to Elders. Phone calls to his office were 100 to 1 against her, Hatch said. At Elders' July 23 hearing, Sen. Dave Durenberger, R.-Minn., who voted for her, said 2,100 of 2,600 constituents contacting his office opposed her.

Some of her statements were "profoundly disturbing and profoundly offensive to many groups," Coats said before the vote.

His biggest concern, however, was her failure to warn the public after potentially defective condoms were distributed by the Arkansas Department of Health in 1992. Food and Drug Administration tests showed the condoms had a defective rate 10 times greater than the agency's limit. The supplier recalled the condoms still in possession of the department and schools but Elders and her senior staff decided not to issue a warning about the condoms already distributed for the "greater public good," she said at a hearing.

Her action was "unconscionable" and demonstrated "unexplainable judgment," Coats said.

All the condoms were not defective, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D.-Ohio, said. Under the circumstances, her "actions were commendable," he said.

"My opposition to Dr. Elders' confirmation was hardened upon hearing of her failure to notify the people of Arkansas of the defective condoms that had been distributed in her state," the CLC's Land said. "Her behavior in accepting and defending the decision to suppress the information on defective condoms illustrates a paternalistic and distrusting approach to the public that is unacceptable in a public servant.

"I would encourage Southern Baptists who share my concerns to contact their senators with all due haste."

Sen. Paul Wellstone, D.-Minn., predicted Elders "will be a real healing force."

One Elders statement Coats cited as offensive was from her 1990 testimony before the same committee. Elders said abortion has had "an important, and positive, public health effect." She mentioned a 64 percent decrease in births of Down's syndrome children in 1976 in the state of Washington to support her claim.

Five families from Virginia and Maryland with Down's syndrome children sat in the audience during the vote and wore lapel stickers which read, "People aren't defective, Dr. Elders' policies are!"

In a written statement, they called her comments "unenlightened, if not prejudiced" and a "step back to the Dark Ages."

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Committee rebuffs pro-lifers  
in unanimous OK for Ginsburg

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--Despite Ruth Bader Ginsburg's advocacy of abortion as a constitutional right, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously July 29 in support of her confirmation as the newest Supreme Court justice.

Even committee members with a pro-life voting record joined in the 18-0 vote, which followed by only a week a hearing in which the federal appeals court judge asserted the right to choose abortion is "something central to a woman's life, her dignity."

The Senate is expected to vote before Congress goes into recess, which is scheduled to begin Aug. 6. Little opposition to her confirmation is predicted.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R.-Utah, though disagreeing with Ginsburg's belief the right to abortion can be based on the Constitution's equal protection clause and with some of her advocacy/academic writings, said he would support her because of her 13-year record on the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

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Her record on the appeals court and the praise of conservative judicial colleagues provide "assurance that she is unlikely to be a liberal judicial activist," Hatch said. He cited studies which showed during some years Ginsburg voted from 85 to 100 percent of the time with such conservative members of the same court as Robert Bork and Antonin Scalia.

The citation of such statistics "almost convinced me to change my vote," liberal Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D.-Ohio, said with a smile.

Other senators from both parties who voted for her complained she did not answer questions sufficiently during the hearing. Some mentioned her refusal to discuss the death penalty as a topic they believed Ginsburg should be willing to address.

Sen. Joe Biden, D.-Del., chairman of the committee, called her "one of the brightest nominees to come before" the Judiciary Committee in the nearly 20 years he has been a member.

Pro-life and conservative organizations, however, have issued strong warnings about her record and writings on abortion and women's rights issues.

In a written statement Phyllis Schlafly, president of Eagle Forum and national chairman of the Republican National Coalition for Life, called Ginsburg possibly the "most radical ideologue ever nominated to the Supreme Court."

"The failure by Republicans and other conservatives in the Senate to expose the radical feminist views of Judge Ginsburg is shameful," Schlafly said.

"It is incomprehensible that any but the most liberal senators could vote to confirm a woman who was chief counsel for the reproductive rights section of the American Civil Liberties Union for seven years, ... who has written that any restrictions on abortion are 'sex discrimination' that must be abolished and who opposes Supreme Court decisions that ruled there is NO constitutional right to enjoy taxpayer funds for abortion," Schlafly said.

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Pilgrimage focuses power  
of prayer on 'World A'

By Brian Smith

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Beijing. The city of Mao Zedong, Tienanmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall.

Uzbekistan. The buckle of the cotton belt of the former Soviet Union. The predominantly Muslim Central Asian republic largely unheard of in the West before the fall of communism.

Irkutsk. The Siberian city of exile. A place where the fur -- "soft gold" -- industry is king.

Mongolia. A land of nomadic herders, the world-famous circus, wide open spaces and Genghis Khan. One of the world's most mysterious countries, and for decades closed to the West.

Prayer. A priority in missions. The ultimate strategy for reaching nations and peoples closed to traditional approaches.

How do all these fit together?

Minette Drumwright found out during a recent 21-day prayer pilgrimage to "World A" that coincided with the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization and its focus on Mongolia.

Leading 18 Southern Baptists, including nine retired missionaries with nearly 300 years of combined field experience, she fulfilled a vision of going to World A -- that part of the world with little or no exposure to the gospel -- to focus the power of prayer.

Even though much of World A is closed to traditional mission work, "they cannot close themselves to prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit," said Drumwright, director of the Foreign Mission Board prayer office.

"Prayer is absolutely essential ... Without it there is no way our people can win spiritual victory," said Lewis Myers, head of Cooperative Services International, the FMB arm that works in many parts of the closed region.

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In orientation periods in London with CSI workers, group members learned how to conduct themselves and adjust their prayer habits to World A on-location praying.

They learned they would pray conversationally with their heads up and eyes open as they walked around the cities, "as though our Lord were right there as a part of our discussion," Drumwright said, "which, of course, he was."

In Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, the prayer pilgrims held the first of their prayer walks. In this city of 2 million people, they visited shrines, centers of history and culture, markets and parks -- praying on the spot, aloud, for people they encountered, national leaders and the handful of Christian believers there.

"We prayed for that darling little boy who returned our wave and prayed that someone who speaks his language would tell him about Jesus," Drumwright said.

Maxine Baumgarner, Woman's Missionary Union director for West Virginia Southern Baptists, came face-to-face with the spiritual needs of World A in the city of Samarkand, southwest of Tashkent.

"As we walked down a wide street crowded with people, I was haunted by the faces. There were old and frail people who looked like they may die before hearing the gospel and children whose eyes were bright but futures hopeless without Christ. A cemetery overlooked the street, and I thought of all the people who had died without others being concerned that they know Christ.

"As we went into a nearby market, crowded with vegetables, fruits, nuts and raw meat, I just began to cry," she said. "I prayed, 'Lord, I know I'm not Jesus, but I join him in weeping over this city.'"

Baumgarner returned home with a commitment that all West Virginia Baptist children learn about World A. "I want them to be challenged in such a way that when they become adults they'll go and tell the children in Samarkand the good news of Christ."

After a brief stay in the Siberian city of Irkutsk, the prayer pilgrims went to Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia. "We really felt the remoteness and difficulty our people have in living there," Drumwright said. "We were there in late May and it was 18 degrees with a chill factor of zero. I can just imagine what it's like in January."

The largest landlocked country in the world had special meaning because of the Day of Prayer and Fasting focus and a prayer partnership between Mongolia and the West Virginia WMU.

"I approached Maxine seven years ago about developing a prayer partnership with a country where prayer was the only strategy that could be employed. Of the several options offered them, they chose Mongolia, which at that time had no known Christians," Drumwright said. "It was the first prayer assignment for a specific people group, and they took it very seriously. They made it a statewide prayer project, praying for doors in Mongolia to really open up."

Mongolia now has at least 800 known believers and about 1,400 Mongolians regularly attend Christian meetings because of the efforts of Southern Baptists and others. Although she had not yet met any of them, Baumgarner began to look at it like a family reunion. "I can't believe I'm going to get to go meet my 'children,'" she said.

Two young women in Ulan Bator, who were among the first of the believers, brought the seven years of prayer to life.

"When I met them I just cried," Baumgarner said. "Seeing their radiant faces, their joy, their commitment, their desire to grow in the Lord, I just wanted to hold them."

She expected a family reunion, but not the response of her new Mongolian children. "They said, 'Since you prayed for me five years before I became a Christian, I feel like you are my mother. Thank you for praying for me.'"

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The next day, as the two young women waved goodbye, the pilgrims boarded the Air Mongul flight to Beijing. Another powerful time of prayer occurred there as they walked among crowds at China's most famous landmark -- the Great Wall. As they literally rubbed elbows with thousands of Chinese on the only man-made structure visible from space, they discovered a set of steps just off the main walkway that was free of people.

"It was near the top of the wall, and there was an unbelievable view of valleys on both sides," Baumgarner said. "As we gathered on those steps, we couldn't help but think that God had reserved for us a chapel of sorts."

Only slightly aware many Chinese were photographing the curious-looking Westerners, they sang and prayed for the river of people stretched out below them -- and for millions of Chinese in a nation with more lost people than anywhere else on earth.

World A may not be the first choice for a relaxing vacation spot, but for 18 people it was an experience they'll never forget. "Our lives and our praying will never be the same," Myers said.

"My most vivid memory is the strong impression of the spiritual darkness and oppressive atmosphere, the lostness of so many people," Drumwright said. Another is how moved our Southern Baptist workers were that we had come. They told us people come and go without praying with them and for them -- and that someone coming for the purpose of prayer moved them to tears."

"When you go around the world in 21 days you realize that it's not that big," Baumgarner said. "Those people we saw are my neighbors."

"The world became smaller, but my heart has become bigger. It cracked open and compassion flowed out. But the needs flowed in."

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

Lay involvement said essential  
for apartment complex outreach

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

GLORIETA N.M. (BP)--Lay people must be involved if Christians are to reach the underchurched residents of apartment communities, a director of multi-housing missions said during Home Missions Week.

"Pastors don't have time to develop another congregation," said Barbara Oden, Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteer and multi-housing coordinator in Houston who recently was appointed as a home missionary for multi-housing work in New York. "It's going to take some lay people who really begin to experience God and do something to begin to reach people for God."

About 70 percent of Americans live in single-family housing, said Don Heath, minister of missions outreach for Eastwood Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla. Of those, about 45 percent are involved in a church, he said.

Meanwhile, about 4 percent of people living in multi-housing are involved in a church, he said. "Our methodology has not seemed to be working in these multi-housing settings," he said.

Heath cited five trends contributing to more people living in multi-housing communities:

- an increase in the number of people older than 65 years.
- a decrease in the average household size.
- an increase in the number of single parents.
- a decrease in the number of marriages.
- an increase in the number of non-family households.

Heath said many churches don't target people living in apartment communities because they are considered temporary residents with little to offer the church.

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Apartment residents usually have a negative opinion of the church, Oden added. "Unless we're the aggressor, (ministries to apartment residents are) not going to work because they're just not going to come."

Heath said effective apartment ministries seek to gain favor with the apartment management while showing genuine concern for residents.

"We are there to assist management to create and maintain a better community for the residents," he said. "When this is done, the manager normally will be supportive to interested residents gathering for corporate worship on the property and maintaining a congregation to provide a vehicle to minister to the residents."

Oden said surveys asking what residents need will almost always have Bible study in the top five requests.

"These people really do want to know what we have. They just don't want to come to our church."

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Include families in prison  
ministries, worker says

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

GLORIETA N.M. (BP)--Christian prison ministries that don't include the inmates' families often result in a difficult reunion when the inmate is released, a man who works with former prisoners said during Home Mission Week.

Many inmates are receptive to evangelistic programs because they have time on their hands and are looking for the answers to their problems, said Mike Rouse, executive director of Exodus, a program in Dallas for released prisoners and their families.

"That family on the outside is pretty much alienated. They don't have that (extra) time because the wife and family are having to make ends meet," he said.

As a result, when a Christian prisoner is released, he may go home to a family that does not understand his new direction in life, Rouse said.

"He's thinking, 'Now I've got the answer to our problems.' And she's going, 'Wait a minute. I don't know what you're even talking about. What about the car payment?'"

Rouse acknowledged that ministries to inmates' families is more time-consuming and difficult than actual prison ministries. "The church at this point is not prepared to identify who those families are and to really minister to their needs."

For families that have experienced different levels of spiritual growth while one member was in prison, Rouse suggested joint discipleship and greater inclusion in the church family.

"Get them involved in the congregation. Just surround them with friends and continue to meet their needs," he said.

Bill Howse, a Southern Baptist home missionary specializing in criminal justice system and senior adult ministries, offered suggestions for working with families of inmates:

- Be a good listener and understand the family dynamics.
- Visit with the inmate's family as appropriate.
- Identify resources in the community, such as health and legal services.
- Be able to provide transportation.
- Consider the special needs of the children.
- Be available.

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Teach growing churches  
to plant others, speaker urges

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

GLORIETA N.M. (BP)--Growing churches that are near the saturation point of their building should be encouraged to plant congregations as another way to continue their growth, an Arizona church starting planner said during Home Missions Week.

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Most growing churches start to level off when their average attendance reaches 90 percent of their buildings's capacity, said Ken Belflower, new church extension director for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention.

Churches should see new congregations are the natural progression for a healthy, missions-minded church, Belflower said.

Arizona Baptists developed the Partnership Arizona Process to help churches catch that vision, he said. Convention workers meet with church leaders and laymen to help them develop plans for starting a congregation in another community or rebirth a congregation that has declined, he said.

"God's trying to plant more churches to reach the lost world. When you challenge them to that, they start seeing a broader vision," Belflower said. "You see a church that had a small vision get larger visions and a way to get there."

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ACTS broadcast focuses  
on families under fire

By C.C. Risenhoover

Baptist Press  
7/30/93

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"Families Under Fire" is the Aug. 16-20 emphasis of "COPE," the daily call-in talk show seen on the ACTS Network at 11 a.m. EST. It is the first time the 9-year-old program has carried the same theme through an entire week.

Host Karen Hayter will have five guests during the week, each to discuss issues affecting American families.

"Kids Out of Control" is the subject of Monday's discussion with Paul Warren, a behavioral pediatrician and adolescent specialist, who will discuss such topics as hyperactivity, depression, oppositional diagnosis and temper tantrums. Warren's most recent book is "Things That Go Bump in the Night."

The topic Tuesday is "Blessing Your Children," based on guest John Trent's book, "The Blessing." The discussion centers on the idea that all are given a blessing from their parents in the form of self-worth, but many do not receive the blessing. The focus is on recovering from not receiving the blessing and on how parents can pass the blessing on to their children. Trent is president of Encouraging Words ministry. He teams with Gary Smalley in teaching marriage seminars nationwide.

Wednesday, psychologist and lecturer Joyce Buckner's subject is "Broken Hearts, Broken Homes." She deals with guilt, shame, feelings of abandonment and recovery from rejection in relation to divorce.

Frank Minirth talks about "Marriages that Go the Distance" Thursday. He focuses on subject matter from his book, "The Passages of Marriage," which presents the idea that all marriages go through stages. If couples understand the stages, they are better equipped to keep a marriage healthy. Minirth is a psychiatrist and president of the Minirth-Meier Clinic in Richardson, Texas.

"Media and Morality" is Ted Baehr's subject Friday. He discusses the declining moral culture and need to train oneself to discern the subtle messages of the mass media that are in conflict with Judeo-Christian ideals. Baehr is chairman of the Atlanta-based Christian Film and Television Commission and publisher of Movieguide, a family guide to movies and entertainment.

ACTS is a faith and family cable television service of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, reaching 19 million homes through VISN/ACTS, the Faith and Values Channel.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The funeral for Velma Scott Sullivan, wife of James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, is Saturday, July 31, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Nashville. The body is at Hibbett and Haley Funeral Home, (615) 883-2361.

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