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HMB establishes disaster
help office, toll-free line

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
9/3/93

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board has established an office and a toll-free phone line to coordinate disaster assistance in the flooded Midwest, as well as Florida and Hawaii which were hit by hurricanes last year.

The toll-free number is 1-800-4SBC-AID. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time. Office coordinator is Ray Gilliland, retired home missionary who served in New York City for 20 years.

The Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board work as partners in disaster relief, with Brotherhood making an immediate response and the Home Mission Board leading the rebuilding phase.

The primary need now is reconstructing homes and churches, said Elmer Goble, HMB director of short-term volunteers. More than 23,000 homes need to be rebuilt in St. Louis alone, and at least 20 churches in Missouri need work.

Electricians, painters, carpenters and people who can hang and finish sheetrock are especially needed, Goble said. All volunteers do not have to be skilled in those areas, but it is best to have one skilled worker for every two or three volunteers, he said.

"The assistance we give is physical, but there is a psychological component to volunteers coming in and helping," said HMB President Larry L. Lewis who toured the flooded areas in August.

"Many people in the area are depressed and have little hope. They've lost everything. When they see others coming in to help, it renews their spirit and gives them hope.

"Volunteers will have a tremendous opportunity to bear a Christian witness as well as meet physical needs," Lewis continued. "That's what ministry is all about."

Financial contributions for rebuilding efforts can be sent to the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601. Checks should be made payable to the Home Mission Board and earmarked disaster relief.

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(BP) photos (horizontal and vertical) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press. Cutlines on SBCNet.

**CLC's Land abhors NEA reversal
on homosexual film festival funding By Tom Strobe**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A recent decision by the National Endowment for the Arts to restore funding denied for three homosexual film festivals is "outrageous and unacceptable," said the leader of the Southern Baptist Convention's ethics and public policy agency.

The NEA announced it was reversing a 1992 decision denying a \$17,500 grant to support homosexual film festivals in Los Angeles, New York and Pittsburgh. Past Pittsburgh festivals included films on a "transvestite orgy," safe sex for lesbians and lesbianism among teenagers, according to reports in The Washington Times.

"Public monies should not be used to promote a lifestyle that violates the moral convictions of the vast majority of the population and is perceived as deviant by multitudes of people," said Richard Land, the Christian Life Commission's executive director. "It is outrageous and unacceptable that the public's tax money would be used to subsidize the distribution and display of such filth."

Renewed criticism of the NEA from evangelical and conservative groups has met the announcement of the decision. In recent years, critics have called for reformation or abolishment of the NEA for its funding of the display of sacrilegious art, homoerotic visual arts and sexually explicit performances.

"Once again, the issue is not censorship but subsidy and sponsorship," Land said. "The government has a responsibility for the oversight of the expenditure of public funds."

"One can only imagine the hue and cry that would ensue if public money were used to promote or sponsor films advocating white supremacy or the KKK. While the public understands the First Amendment rights of homosexuals and racists to express their views, they also understand the public's right to refuse to subsidize such expression," he said.

The NEA announced Aug. 25 Ana Steele, acting senior deputy chairman, had upheld an appeal by the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture, which will receive the grant in fiscal year 1993. The endowment cited an "abuse of process" in announcing the reversal.

Anne-Imelda Radice, the NEA's acting chairman, denied funding for the festivals last year. NAMAC appealed in December 1992, but Radice did not act on the appeal before her departure in January, when the Clinton administration took office.

Steele's review found there was an "unjustifiably lengthy delay" in Radice's rejection of the grant, the NEA said. The deadline for notifying applicants had passed and the festivals had ended before Radice's decision. According to the NEA, artistic judgment was not part of Steele's review.

Former President George Bush named Radice as acting chairman after the resignation of John Frohnmayer as NEA chairman in February 1992. Critics of the NEA had called for removal of Frohnmayer in order to reform the agency. Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan was using the NEA funding issue against Bush in Republican Party primaries when Frohnmayer resigned.

President Bill Clinton has nominated actress Jane Alexander as the new chairman. A Senate hearing on her nomination is scheduled Sept. 21.

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives cut the NEA's budget by \$8.7 million to \$165.8 million. The Senate has yet to act on its budget.

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**Crews dream for GGBTS:
help churches of tomorrow**

By Cameron Crabtree

**Baptist Press
9/3/93**

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary must change the way it provides leadership development to shape leaders for the "churches of tomorrow," President William O. Crews told students during a Sept. 1 chapel service opening a new semester.

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"The first and foremost issue for seminaries in America today is leadership," Crews said. "It has to become the first and foremost issue for Golden Gate Seminary if the dream handed to us by our founders is to survive and prosper."

Crews' assessment resulted from a summer of research and reflection about the need for "new and practical applications" in theological education, particularly in the West. Golden Gate Seminary is one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and the sole SBC agency in the western United States.

With pastors from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area attending the chapel, Crews acknowledged most people criticizing seminaries today are "friendly critics" concerned that seminaries do the best job possible: "It would be unwise to simply dismiss the critics and pretend all is well in 'seminary land.'"

Crews also admitted changing the way Golden Gate Seminary provides leadership development remains an unfinished item on a six-point agenda he brought into his administration seven years ago.

"In a world where everything is changing, surely seminaries must change to meet the challenges of training Christian leaders," he said. "Currently, we are not equipping people to give leadership to these needed changes, and thus, they often flounder in ministry, not because they wanted to fail, but because they were not trained to succeed."

Crews said his dream is "Golden Gate Seminary will become the primary provider of effective leaders for the churches of tomorrow."

A pastor since age 17, Crews placed "churches of tomorrow" in two categories:

-- new churches. "Our founding fathers sacrificed in order that new churches could be planted in the West. Many of them were personally involved in planting churches while they taught at the seminary; that spirit must possess us again. With Los Angeles, San Francisco and Portland and Seattle as our bases of operation, we have the opportunity to discover what it takes to plant churches in a culturally diverse setting. If it can be done here, it can be done anywhere. We are looking at an opportunity of world-sized dimensions."

-- renewed and revived existing churches. "Many of these churches are culture-bound colonies of Southern Baptist life and thought in the 50s and 60s. Short of radical change, they are destined, and probably deserving of death, drowned in a sea of unchurched, lost persons who found their culture unattractive and sometimes offensive. Churches can be renewed, but not without a patient leader who understands the nature of change and has the potential of helping these churches dream some new dreams."

Crews said he is renewing the emphasis on leadership development because several key goals have been achieved:

-- Keep the seminary free of denominational controversy. "Those of us who serve in the West can ill afford the debate and division which did and does characterize many of the state Baptist conventions in traditional Southern Baptist Convention territory."

-- Settle the issue of the location of the Mill Valley campus. "While the emotional impact of formally studying this issue was enormous, we had to answer the questions involved with the issue. I am grateful we made the commitment to remain and put the issue behind us."

-- Stabilize fiscal operation of the seminary. "When I became president, the seminary was operating at a substantial deficit due to some program and personnel expansion ... but after three years it became necessary to make those reductions, in what was the most painful experience for us all; however, we were able to stabilize the financial picture."

-- Secure cost of living/housing subsidy for faculty and staff. "Through a long and difficult process, we were able to convince the Southern Baptist Convention to give us a special allocation ... which will enable us to provide some relief to our faculty and staff as they try to live in Marin county."

Now, Crews said, "our response to the need for significant changes in what, where, why, and how we do leadership training" will determine survival as an institution.

"Shaping effective Christian leaders is a dream as old as our founding and as new as tomorrow," said Crews. "We will move ahead to lead this seminary to realize its potential, to renew the vision that God gave us almost 50 years ago and to which he calls us again today."

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Innovation emphasized
at CAMEO conference

By David E. Reid

Baptist Press
9/3/93

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP)--"Innovation." Webster's New World Dictionary defines it as "something newly introduced; new method, custom, device, etc.; change in the ways of doing things."

The concept--as defined above and applied to Sunday school work--also was the focus of the 1993 Summer CAMEO Conference recently held at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly. More than 300 pastors, church staff members, and lay people attended.

The conference -- appropriately titled "Innovations" -- featured leaders from seven Southern Baptist churches which are known for their creative approaches to doing Sunday school. The seven led small group workshops in classrooms and appeared together in Shocco's chapel for question-and-answer sessions which resembled a television talk show.

Between sessions, each leader was asked to identify trends which challenge traditional Sunday school methods, then suggest innovations which respond to the challenge.

Sondra Saunders, senior pre-school and children's minister at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, identified the increase in blended families -- formerly called "step-families" -- as one trend.

"When children from blended families are with Mom one weekend and Dad the next, the most you'll have them in Sunday school is 26 times a year and probably only 19 or 20 times, given illnesses and vacations," Saunders said.

"To respond to that challenge, we're going to have to extend Sunday school into the rest of the week. We no longer can do it exclusively on Sunday mornings." She said other trends and ways Sunday school must respond include shorter attention spans for youth and children (classes must be fast-paced); and increased concern of parents for their families (offer activities which keep families together).

Hugh Kirby, minister of youth at New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., also named the disruption of the family unit as a development which challenges traditional methods. Churches and Sunday schools can respond by providing surrogate parental relationships for youth and children from single-parent homes.

"In ministering to youth there has been a move away from younger to more middle-aged youth workers and a corresponding move away from the 'buddy' relationship to providing a father image," Kirby said.

Mike Arrington, Sunday school director at First Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., and a vice-president with the Baptist Sunday School Board, identified technological advances as a another trend.

"High-tech advances in schools and in the workplace have raised the intelligence level of people and caused them to have greater expectations," Arrington said. "We must respond by emphasizing quality and excellence in everything we do."

Arrington suggested integrating video and computer technology into the Sunday school. Although high costs currently are a problem, the technology is becoming less expensive.

He said one response which most churches can afford is signing up with "SBCNet," a denominational computer information service. Among SBCNet's features are on-line conferences and forums in which users swap ideas and ask questions. Lesson plans for the youth and adult Life and Work Sunday school series and youth Convention Uniform and Bible Book series also are available on-line.

The lesson plans include illustrations and applications which are more current than those in the printed quarterlies, which are written two to three years before publication.

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Lisa Milne, program director for Second Baptist Church in Houston, said the growing gap between belief and behavior is another trend which challenges the Sunday school.

"Opinion polls show that people are more 'religious,' yet when we look at all the problems we have in America, we see that 'belief' doesn't equal 'behavior,'" Milne said.

Sunday schools must respond by showing how belief should relate to behavior, she said. At Second Baptist Church, Sunday school teachers emphasize application -- how class members can apply what they believe to how they live. "Our own lives also have to be radically different," she added. "The church can't be a stained-glass fortress. We must move out among the people like Jesus did and be a friend to sinners."

Lee Ross, pastor of King Spring Baptist Church in Smyrna, Ga., said another trend is the loss of Sunday school as an "entry point" for first-time church visitors.

"People used to visit Sunday school first and then the worship service. Now, most first-time visitors attend the worship service and may not attend a Sunday school until much later," Ross said.

But that doesn't mean churches should de-emphasize Sunday school, he added. Rather, they must offer high-quality worship services which meet the needs of unchurched people.

"The challenge is to be culturally relevant to lost people," Ross said. "At King Spring we've created an earlier contemporary worship service as an alternative to our traditional service. That not only has increased our overall worship attendance, it also has increased our Sunday school attendance."

A trend mentioned by several conference leaders was declining worship and discipleship training attendance on Sunday evenings, especially among young couples with children.

Rick Ray, minister of education at First Baptist Church in Moore, Okla., said his Sunday school is responding by offering discipleship training materials during the Sunday school hour.

"We have wed discipleship with Sunday school, and God's hand has been all over it," Ray said. He mentioned discipleship training's LIFE courses as being of high quality and well suited for that purpose.

Pat Gilbert, preschool minister at First Baptist Church in Dallas, said another trend Sunday school workers face is that of families in crisis. Workers in the past didn't have to worry about such situations; now they must be equipped to minister to people whose lives are affected by them.

"Increases in unemployment and the number of unwed mothers and other single parents have repercussions not only for adults but also for children," Gilbert said. "We need to provide training for directors and teachers so they can meet the needs of these people."

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David Reid writes for the communications department of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

Anti-gang march and rally seek
to 'reclaim streets' in Little Rock

By Trennis Henderson

Baptist Press
9/3/93

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--A recent "March to Save the Neighborhoods" attracted fewer than 100 participants for the 13-block march to Arkansas' state capitol; organizers had hoped for up to 2,000 marchers.

"It's sad the people aren't here today. It what's wrong with our society. It's where our priorities are," noted event organizer Aaron Wheeler, pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, Ark. Despite the low turnout, he added, "Let us march up the street with great pride and great dignity We are here and God knows it and that's a blessing."

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The march did attract a number of state government officials, including Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, Lt. Gov. Mike Huckabee and Attorney General Winston Bryant. Speakers at a rally on the capitol steps insisted the event was a positive step in addressing concerns related to gang violence, drugs and other problems facing youth across the state.

"Today we make an investment in the future of Arkansas," Bryant remarked. "It may be a small beginning in some respects but it will be a giant step forward, let me assure you."

Noting "the violence that surrounds gang activities is destroying lives," Bryant said there were 96 homicides in Pulaski County last year, including 38 deaths among youth and young adults, age 13 to 24.

Announcing plans to establish a gang task force to help address the issue, Bryant added, "By starting today, we can begin to turn the tide on gang violence that is occurring in this state."

Surveying the crowd of black and white marchers, Huckabee stated, "God doesn't look down and see our color, our political affiliation. What God does see is that our children are dying in the streets.

"We're not really going to change what is happening in the streets by just passing new laws," the lieutenant governor continued. "It's got to be fixed within the families.

"Hopefully, rather than clench our fists at each other, we will open our hands to one another and reclaim our streets, our homes, our families and our future," Huckabee concluded.

Wheeler, who directs MEN (Males Emerging Now), a mentoring program for young black males, told marchers, "It's a sad time in America when our children go to school in fear of whether or not they will come home safely. It's time for a change in America. ... We're going to walk for the children till God calls us home."

Following the march and rally, Wheeler noted, "We lit the fire for people to do something. The march told us there is a lot of work for Christians to do in the world. There is a need for ministry dealing with crime, violence, drugs and gangs. I would hope we as Southern Baptists would take a strong look at that ministry."

Maurice Hitt, director of missions for Red River Baptist Association, took part in the march and led the benediction at the rally. Voicing concern for the issues addressed, he pointed out, "I don't see this violence as being in a sector all by itself. It is a product of drugs, alcohol, pornography and the breakdown of the family.

"We've got to restore community and family and deal with strengthening the home," Hitt insisted. Affirming the importance of personal Christian involvement, he added, "The church has got to deal with the relevant issues of our day, not just as a social gospel but as a credible witness to our community."

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Authentic Worship Workshop
emphasizes encountering God

By Millie Gill

Baptist Press
9/3/93

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--"We are gathered today under the metaphor of 'journeying'," noted Allen Walworth as worship leaders met at Park Hill Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Ark., for an Authentic Worship Workshop.

The workshop, jointly sponsored by the church music and church leadership support departments of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, featured Walworth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Ala., and Terry York, field services division manager of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department, as conference leaders.

"Our journey is for the One who is worthy of worship and praise," Walworth emphasized. "As church staff members, some of you have come here exhausted and flustered from unending and unfair expectations, but the purpose of this workshop is to equip you for an authentic encounter on a journey with God so that you might return to your church field and help others have a special encounter with God.

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"Authentic worship is not tricks or techniques," Walworth continued. "It is an actual encounter with the majesty of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is important to be flow conscious in a service, but flexibility is needed, permitting God to move. Oftentimes you can be creative by introducing new worship ideas that will involve the entire congregation.

"We must realize that a worship service is for God, not first for us," Walworth pointed out. "It is our response back to God for what he first gave us." He said authentic worship services "needs to have celebration, but yet have a time of authenticity to meet all of needs of life, bringing the total person to God."

York said musical worship styles include liturgical, revivalistic, blended, celebrative, praise and worship and seeker-oriented.

"Your music is actually divided into two categories for these services," he noted. "It is either traditional or contemporary."

Describing the various worship styles, York noted:

-- Liturgical services "will have a prescribed sequence of events with form as important as the elements themselves and will have an acknowledgment of God, featuring confession, acceptance and a recounting of what has been given by God."

-- Revivalistic or free services "will be a vehicle for the message, but not a part of the message."

-- Blended services "will have features from both the liturgical and revivalistic services."

-- Celebrative services "will have thanksgiving, celebration, adoration, praise, confession, worship, a sermon and an invitation to obedience. They will also have a full orchestra."

-- Praise and worship services also may feature "a full orchestra and a choir functioning to maintain a celebrative form of worship. The focus of this service will move to God instead of about God."

-- Seeker-oriented services generally have "freedom as their form, almost exclusively featuring praise choruses by a small ensemble that is accompanied by an electronic keyboard. There will be no invitation."

"We as Southern Baptists need to become multi-lingual in our worship services," York encouraged. "We are going to have to become multi-musical to reach our multi-ethnic nation. The intent of authentic worship is that we know who we are worshipping and then share him with out multi-lingual nation.

"Growing the kingdom is what we are about. Therefore we will be amazed at how people will have a genuine encounter with God and then share the good news of their encounter if authentic worship services are humble, open and creative," York said.

Using Hebrews 13 for a biblical basis Walworth and York led the 102 workshop participants through a worship experience.

"Jacob running from Esau exemplifies a staffer who has been fired from a church and is pulling a U-haul with nowhere to go," Walworth said. "Yet as God blessed Jacob, so he will bless worship leaders if they too will build an altar and have a meeting with God as did Jacob.

"A meeting with God is the thing most needed today," Walworth acknowledged. "The stones must be removed that are being carried around and the forgiveness of God claimed. Jesus Christ, the hewed cornerstone, will polish those rough edges when lives are placed in him. When worship leaders have taken this journey then they will be able to lead the congregation on a journey of authentic worship."

"The workshop was a great reminder of the importance of worship," said Verne Wickliffe, pastor of First Baptist Church of Malvern, Ark. "It also was a reminder that worship is not in the order of service but in creating an environment in which an encounter with God may occur."

"The Lord is doing a fresh work among his people," said Ric Hunt, minister of music and worship for Central Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ark. "That fact was underscored again at the recent Authentic Worship Workshop. He is calling his people to a deeper, more intimate fellowship with himself.

"It's a move of God that supersedes issues of personal taste and worship tradition," Hunt continued. "And those who respond are finding new joy, power and fruitfulness in their walk with Christ."

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