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Midwestern trustees wrestle  
with faculty tenure concerns

By Brenda J. Sanders

Baptist Press  
10/20/93

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Concerns over the granting of tenure to faculty members consumed the lion's share of time during the Oct. 18-19 semiannual meeting of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees.

Tenure was denied to Wilburn T. Stancil, 44, associate professor of Christian theology since 1989. Trustees expressed reservations about Stancil's views on inerrancy, rebaptism and the historicity of Genesis 1-3, among other concerns. (See related stories.)

Board members unanimously voted to grant tenure to Randall Bradley, assistant professor of church music education since 1989. In accordance with the president's recommendation, Bradley's tenure status became effective immediately upon affirmative action by the trustees.

The board's executive committee introduced a recommendation to make a bylaw change regarding faculty election, granting of tenure and dismissal procedures. The change will make the seminary bylaws consistent in relation to the vote requirement for the initial election of faculty, which calls for at least a two-thirds vote, and the requirement for granting of faculty tenure. As it now stands, the seminary bylaws do not specify whether a simple majority or a two-thirds majority vote is required for the granting of tenure.

Midwestern President Milton Ferguson told trustees, historically, the seminary has granted tenure to faculty members by a simple majority vote of trustees.

A motion that would require at least a two-thirds vote for the granting of faculty tenure was offered at the trustees' April meeting and referred to the executive committee. During the October meeting, the executive committee offered for review a bylaw amendment stating "faculty may be elected to indefinite tenure by at least a two-thirds vote of the board of trustees." The bylaw change will be voted on at the April 1994 meeting.

Trustee Kent Cochran of Kansas City asked whether the bylaw change would affect faculty members on the tenure track. He told trustees he personally had consulted Kansas City attorney Tim Dollar about the matter and said he understood the change could be retroactive.

Chairman James Jones of Michigan noted the executive committee's recommendation "does not address those now on the tenure track. It would address only those who are hired from this moment on."

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President Ferguson told trustees two attorneys had been consulted on this issue after the April trustee meeting and both offered opinions as to whether or not the bylaws can be made retroactive.

He pointed out, "The attorneys said you could change the bylaws in such a way and you could write your employment contract so that a new hire could be told from the beginning that the bylaws and/or tenure statements could be changed in the future without regard to their contract status, and therefore they'd be subject to any subsequent change."

Further consideration was given to the matter during an afternoon session of the executive committee and, during an evening session of the board, trustees adopted the committee's recommendation that "only a simple majority vote is required for tenure status for any professor who is currently on tenure track prior to any change in the bylaws requiring a different majority."

Trustees also received a report concerning actions taken by the executive committee in response to a motion made by Dennis Murphy of Minnesota, messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June. Murphy's motion for an investigation into allegations of harassment of female students by a Midwestern trustee was ruled out of order by SBC President H. Edwin Young. However, seminary administration and executive committee members went on to investigate the charges this summer.

Lewis Adkison, committee member from Colorado, said the executive committee "found no evidence of harassment of any student, male or female." Yet, he acknowledged the response of two students who "expressed feelings of personal discomfort following telephone conversations from a trustee which they felt went beyond the bounds of appropriate inquiry by a trustee to a student."

Trustee Carl Weiser of Louisiana inquired about an ad hoc committee that he understood had looked further into the allegations.

Chairman Jones said the committee "dealt with these accusations" which involved two trustees but "did not find that the accusations were substantiated."

The committee would not reveal the names of those involved.

Roger Oldham of Tennessee, chairman of the trustees' instruction committee, shared a report concerning a student's grievance appeal to the board. In executive session, the committee discussed the student's grievance "concerning certain teaching methodologies of one of the professors at Midwestern Seminary."

In his report to the full board, Oldham presented a request that asks Ferguson to create a task force including representatives from the administration, faculty and trustee instruction committee "to define the parameters within which different aspects of so-called 'feminism,' 'women in the ministry' and 'inclusive language' may appropriately be addressed in the classroom."

The instruction committee also requested the executive committee include in a proposed trustee handbook "clearly written guidelines which address proper steps trustees should follow whenever a grievance may be addressed to them and proper ways of inquiring into the disposition of such matters once they have been referred to the administration."

Oldham said, "This, clearly, is a matter which is beyond the pale of the student to address any further. It is a trustee and administration matter."

The full board adopted a motion of the instruction committee which acknowledged: "The stated objective of the student was to see that these matters would be looked into by the board of trustees. This objective has been fulfilled."

During the finance committee's report, it was noted although actual revenue for Midwestern during the 1992-93 academic year was below budget by \$106,606 -- due primarily to declining Cooperative Program revenues -- expenses also were below budget by \$98,358, producing a deficit of just \$3,984. This is in contrast to a deficit of \$46,513 the previous year.

Glenn Miller, director of financial services at the seminary, told trustees the results were accomplished through the use of a deficit reduction plan which involved a thorough analysis of all funds, investments and cash flow needs.

For the 1993-94 academic year, Miller said, "We have put together what we feel like is a very reasonable budget, both on the revenue and expense side. We believe that we're on track for a break-even year."

In other business, trustees:

-- unanimously voted to approve an advancement in rank for Albert F. Bean, from associate professor to professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

-- in response to an SBC motion made by messenger Bobby McFalls of Florida, acknowledged their commitment to "remain good stewards of Southern Baptist Cooperative Program contributions in the administration of severance benefits for seminary employees."

-- reviewed an outline and projection of contents of a proposed trustee handbook.

-- received reports concerning faculty vacancies in New Testament and religious education.

-- referred a motion by trustee Dean Shields of Pennsylvania to the executive committee regarding severing ties with seminary legal counsel John Shank.

-- adopted a recommendation from the development committee that trustees, alumni and administration/faculty "raise \$60,000 annually for the next three years to begin to fund the position of vice president of development."

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MBTS trustees deny tenure  
to theology professor Stancil

By Bob Terry

Baptist Press  
10/20/93

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Milton Ferguson found himself on the opposite side from the seminary trustees' instruction committee over the granting of tenure to theology professor Wilburn T. Stancil. The confrontation came in the Oct. 18-19 meeting of the seminary trustees in Kansas City.

When the meeting ended, the trustees had sided with the instruction committee by denying tenure to Stancil by a vote of 24-9.

By a vote of 5-0 with one abstention, the instruction committee declined to concur with Ferguson's recommendation for tenure. However, Ferguson chose to go to the whole board with the nomination, despite the opposition.

The controversy surrounding the recommendation had been brewing since April when Stancil received a 16-9 majority vote for tenure. However, Sid Peterson of California, then chairman of the trustees, ruled that a two-thirds vote was necessary to grant tenure. That ruling produced confusion when the trustees sustained the chair over the objections of Ferguson, who said a simple majority was all that had ever been used for tenure determinations.

In the midst of the confusion, trustees agreed to rescind their original vote and postpone consideration of tenure questions until the October meeting. During the intervening months, the seminary received two attorneys' opinions about the seminary's bylaws governing faculty election and granting tenure. The instruction committee also met with Stancil and received numerous documents concerning his beliefs and professional writings.

As the process dragged on, students became involved, holding a public forum on the topic and voting 100-3 in favor of granting Stancil tenure. Student body president David Martin called Stancil "one of the three most popular professors at Midwestern." Stancil's fellow faculty members also adopted a statement urging tenure for their embattled colleague.

When the issue finally came to the full board of trustees Monday evening, Oct. 18, instruction committee chairman Roger Oldham of Tennessee cited five reasons the committee voted not to concur with Ferguson's tenure recommendation.

Leading the list of complaints was Stancil's rejection of inerrancy. Oldham said the committee members were concerned that Stancil "rejects inerrancy as an appropriate model for understanding the nature of Scripture." He added the professor had failed to give an adequate formal statement of his own conceptualization of the nature of Scripture.

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Concern also was raised about the meaning of "matter" in the Baptist Faith and Message which describes the Bible, in part, as having "God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without mixture of error, for its matter." Oldham said Stancil understands matter to refer to the history of salvation as opposed to referring to any realm of reality to which the Bible speaks.

Stancil's view of Adam and Eve as "historical symbols" in Genesis 1-3 reflecting the existence of a real first man and first woman was cited as a third concern. This was a problem, Oldham said, because Stancil holds that the Adam and Eve of Genesis 4 are not necessarily the same first man and woman of Genesis 1-3.

Stancil also drew opposition because of an unpublished convocation address titled "Rebaptism in the Southern Baptist Convention: A Theological and Pastoral Dilemma." The committee questioned whether or not the emphasis of the proper order of Spirit baptism and water baptism in the address was in keeping with the baptist model and emphasis upon believer's baptism.

Finally, the instruction committee observed "a different spirit, tone or content" in Stancil's published works and his written replies to questions furnished by the committee. Committee members described the written replies to committee questions as more open and said they wondered "why he chose not to speak clearly initially."

Ferguson asked Stancil to speak to the concerns and for more than an hour, the theology professor attempted to refute the charges one by one and to respond to questions raised by the trustees. He repeatedly referred to a written document he had prepared and which had been shared with all the trustees.

Concerning his belief in the Bible, Stancil said, "... I believe all of the Bible is inspired because men moved by the Holy Spirit wrote it. I stand in the classical tradition of the Reformation and our Baptist forefathers in believing that Scripture is God-breathed. ...

"I do not know how God inspired the men who wrote the Bible but I believe he did. I believe God inspired not only their thought but also their words. In other words, I believe in verbal inspiration," he continued.

"The Bible is the center of my faith and teaching because it is totally God's inspired Word. Where the Bible speaks, God speaks. When the Bible says something should be believed, it should be believed. When the Bible says something should be done, it should be done. The Bible is to be believed, taught, proclaimed and obeyed," he said.

In response to his use of the Baptist Faith and Message, Stancil said he used matter to refer to the "whole history of salvation from the beginning of God's dealings with Israel all the way to the final second coming."

"That is the matter, the salvation history," he declared.

"I did not state nor would I state, that the other -- matters -- are full of errors. I do not believe the Bible teaches error," he emphasized.

About Adam and Eve, Stancil made several points. First he said he introduces students to several different interpretations of Genesis and one deals with symbolic language. He said the phrase he used was "historical symbol." He said this view does not eliminate the historicity of Genesis 1-3, but expresses that historicity through the use of symbol.

"This is an important point I tried to make in the tenure interview," he said. "I stated symbols do not deny history but rather open it up and universalize it." He said he believed that Satan tempted Eve as taught in Genesis 3:3-7. "The fact that Satan is depicted symbolically as a snake does not detract from the reality of the Devil. The same is true of Revelation 12:3-17 when Satan is depicted as a dragon or in Romans where Paul describes him as a roaring lion."

Stancil pointed to the Lord's Supper as a Baptist symbol. "We believe that the historical reality of the death of Christ is being figuratively depicted in that ordinance. We would never think that because we use the symbol to refer to the Lord's Supper that we are evading reality or history," he observed.

"In the same way, my use of the term -- historical symbol -- is meant to embrace the historicity of the text, not to evade it."

When asked if sin had a historical beginning, Stancil said, "Yes, I believe that Genesis 3 teaches the historical origin of human sin."

Stancil was questioned closely about his view of baptism. He told trustees, "Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I believe that the only person who should be baptized is a person who shows evidence of the signs of regeneration. I further believe that the local church should do all it can to discern whether the person is saved or not prior to his or her baptism."

He continued, "... the normative order is Spirit baptism first followed by water baptism. In order to be clear, let me state that I would never baptize anyone who is not saved."

Asked if he believed baptism was the basis of salvation, Stancil said, "Nowhere in the address do I state or ever suggest that baptism is the basis of salvation. I do, however, stand by my statement, 'the Word of God spoken in baptism is more foundational than our faith.' By this I mean that God's initiating grace always precedes the faith response of the believer."

When asked about his concern about rebaptism, Stancil said he was concerned about attempts to pressure people into feeling like they had never been saved and needed to be rebaptized after a later Christian experience. He said his counsel would be to lead the person to examine their initial Christian experience to determine if it were a genuine salvation experience.

Stancil said that at least 40 percent of his students had been baptized more than once.

In response to questions about whether he would rebaptize someone who had genuinely been saved after an earlier baptism experience, Stancil said he would follow the lead of the individual. He said that if the person wanted to be rebaptized, he would rebaptize them. However, as the pastor, he would not necessarily counsel them for rebaptism.

Several trustees questioned whether the theology professor was committed to believer's baptism if he would not counsel rebaptism for one whose first experience occurred before one was a believer.

Other trustees objected to Stancil's use of the term rebaptized. They argued that if one was not a believer at the time of the baptismal experience the initial experience was only getting someone wet.

Concerning the charge that his written responses reflected a different spirit, tone or content than his professional writings, Stancil said, "... it is hard to say what you believe when people are asking you what you do not believe." He explained that in the two-and-a-half-hour interview with the instruction committee, he was given "very little time to deal with anything other than controversial matters."

He described his efforts to share with the committee as "positive and upbeat in spirit" and said he tried to dialogue with the committee members.

Following Stancil's presentation, Ferguson said he was convinced that an essential part of the reservation to affirm Stancil was his hesitancy to use the term inerrancy.

"I urge you to get beyond terminology," Ferguson said. "Lay aside whether he speaks kindly of inerrancy or is friendly to current SBC leadership." Ferguson said, "He (Stancil) believes more about the Bible than some folks who call themselves inerrantists."

Ferguson acknowledged a problem with Stancil's views about baptism calling them "fuzzy wuzzy." But he argued the views were not sufficient to deny tenure to the professor.

"I have never brought you a recommendation and I never will bring you a recommendation for someone with serious reservation about commitment to the seminary's Articles of Faith. I ask you to join me in granting tenure to this man," Ferguson concluded.

Before voting, 13 trustees spoke to the recommendation. Only two of the 13 spoke in behalf of Stancil. Missourian Marvin Nobles, director of missions for Jefferson County Baptist Association, identified himself as an inerrantist. He said he wished Stancil would use the term. "But when I define the term, I define it like he believes. Even though we use different words, we believe the same thing."

Other trustees differed. Trustee Anthony Mattia of Kansas pointed out that a speaker at the first SBC-sponsored Conference on Inerrancy said that "people don't use the term inerrancy because they don't believe the Bible."

Ronnie Rogers of Arkansas declared, "The whole conservative resurgence is about inerrancy and he (Stancil) fails to meet that standard."

Tim Harvey of Georgia said he could not stand in his pulpit and preach inerrancy and come to a trustee meeting and vote differently. "If he will not avow inerrancy, he doesn't believe it and I will not support him."

In all, five trustees objected to Stancil's stand on inerrancy. Three expressed concern over his responses to baptismal questions.

Following the secret ballot vote to deny tenure, trustee chairman James Jones of Michigan said the action had to be accepted as "within God's will" for Stancil. He observed that actions are easier to understand when they are affirming and more difficult when "the circumstances of our lives crumble and shatter before our eyes."

Jones called the timing of the recommendation "unfortunate" because of what has gone on in the Southern Baptist Convention over the years. He said the primary task of the seminary will continue to prepare church workers.

Jones said it is important to remember God has not forsaken Stancil and his family, and he called on Southern Baptists to pray for the Stancil family "as they go through these deep waters of adversity."

After the meeting adjourned, Ferguson expressed his opinion that it was "Dr. Stancil's apparent failure to give a clear, definitive statement regarding his views on baptism which may well have cost him a majority vote for tenure."

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Stancil: Tenure denied  
due to political agenda

By Bob Terry

Baptist Press  
10/20/93

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Wilburn T. Stancil said he failed to receive tenure because "some trustees are more interested in furthering a political agenda imposed by denominational power brokers than in arriving at the truth about my theology."

Speaking to trustees Oct. 18 after they voted 24-9 to deny tenure, Stancil said, "By all criteria and standards set out in the seminary bylaws, I deserve to be granted tenure." He charged it was denied him through "illegal manipulation" of the seminary bylaws, even though he previously received a majority vote.

In April, Stancil was approved for tenure by a 17-16 vote but the chair ruled a two-thirds majority was necessary for approval. Instead of letting the vote and decision of the chairman stand, Midwestern Seminary President Milton Ferguson succeeded in getting the trustees to reconsider their action and then postpone a vote until their Oct. 18-19 meeting at the Kansas City, Mo., seminary.

At that session, trustees agreed that only a majority vote would be required for tenure for anyone currently employed by the seminary.

Stancil said he had been slandered, lied about and his theology misrepresented. He said he was accused of being strident, condescending in attitude and disloyal to the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Having been told by the (SBC) power brokers that their job is to weed out liberalism, they (trustees who voted against him) will stop at nothing to further their unholy causes," Stancil declared.

"For many trustees truth and justice are negotiable, and unethical behavior and power politics are acceptable and effective methods to carry out kingdom work," he continued.

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Two trustees walked out as Stancil spoke. Others attempted to get trustee chairman James Jones of Michigan to rule Stancil out of order but Jones did not acknowledge the calls from the trustees.

Stancil labeled his attempt to cooperate with trustees and to respond to all concerns as naive. "It is clear, however, that many trustees are threatened not only by beliefs that do not fit their dogmatic fundamentalism but by a professor who refuses to mindlessly parrot their theological jingles or obediently be their political puppet."

Stancil said that since he has taught theology to a majority of the students at Midwestern Seminary, the trustees should "show students where I am deficient theologically." He charged that if trustees cared about students they would buy out his contract immediately "so I will not 'corrupt' any more students between now and June when my contract expires."

Students, he argued, support him as a teacher, citing a recent student poll where 97 percent of Midwestern Seminary students support his bid for tenure.

Stancil said he was "at peace with God, my theology and myself." He said he took comfort in knowing that someday trustees will have to give an account for the "shameful action" taken toward him.

Some trustees said they were infuriated by Stancil's remarks and privately called for accepting his suggestion of buying out his contract immediately. However, the next morning the instruction committee proposed that the trustees support President Ferguson and academic dean Vernon Davis in their efforts to communicate the "bounds of proper conduct for faculty."

Instructional committee chairman Roger Oldham of Tennessee said the instructional committee did not want to respond to Stancil in unkind ways. "Let the president and dean follow the established process and keep us informed," he urged.

Several trustees said they were "grieved" by Stancil's remarks. Dennis Wood, trustee from Arizona, said, "I do care for students and I am offended that someone accuses me of not caring for students." He accused Stancil of "propagating this kind of untruth" through his contacts with students.

Larry "Joe" McKinney of New Mexico said trustees gave him opportunity to make up his own mind about Stancil, but he agreed students may perceive the trustees as a political group.

One of the trustees who walked out during Stancil's remarks, Tim Harvey of Georgia, said he later read the remarks and believes there "probably are some guys on the trustees who deserve that speech." He quickly added some trustees did not deserve the verbal scolding because they sought only the best for the seminary.

After several minutes of discussion, the instructional committee recommendation of allowing Ferguson and Davis talk with Stancil about his speech was approved without dissent.

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Ferguson pledges to seek faculty  
who affirm 'Baptist Faith and Message'

Baptist Press  
10/20/93

By Brenda J. Sanders

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--At the outset of a trustee meeting in which two faculty members were up for tenure consideration, Midwestern Seminary President Milton Ferguson sought to clarify his position on hiring faculty who affirm the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

"I have never knowingly recommended to you any faculty nominee who failed in any way to believe and teach in accordance with our seminary Articles of Faith (the Baptist Faith and Message), and I will never do so in the future," Ferguson said in his report to the semiannual meeting of Midwestern's board of trustees Oct. 18-19.

"The Baptist Faith and Message is not a creed to which we must subscribe in order to belong," he continued. "It is rather a collective expression of those things we believe in common and hold in sacred trust. It defines the limits or parameters as well as the freedoms and commitments for our academic life and teaching/learning experience."

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Ferguson noted, "There is a dimension to the conservative resurgence in our Southern Baptist Convention which calls for an added stewardship with respect to the beliefs and teachings of our faculty. At the heart of the movement is the call for a more clearly defined interpretation of the nature of the inspiration and authority of the Bible."

The president said some trustees "have expressed concern" that he has not adequately responded to this movement in the area of faculty recommendations.

Ferguson explained, "Our Articles of Faith clearly define a strong view of inspiration, stating that 'the Holy Bible is written by men divinely inspired' and that it therefore 'has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.' This definition of inerrancy is the basis on which we are seeking to fill current faculty vacancies."

The president said he, along with Midwestern's faculty and academic dean Vernon Davis, are committed to recommend to the trustees "persons clearly identified with the conservative resurgence and its focus on biblical inerrancy."

"Let there be no mistake about it," Ferguson said, "there is no place in the administration or the faculty of Midwestern Seminary for anyone who rejects the supernatural origin and nature of the Christian faith. There is no place for anyone who denies the authority of the Bible as the Word of God, who denies the deity of Jesus Christ or his full humanity or his virgin birth, his sinless life, his bodily resurrection and his personal visible return to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Ferguson expressed his commitment to a "positive and constructive future for Midwestern Seminary in the context of a Southern Baptist Convention characterized and directed by the conservative resurgence of the last 15 years."

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Child pornography law  
endangered by changes

By Louis Moore

Baptist Press  
10/20/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--In a departure some say is both "radical" and "dangerous," Solicitor General Drew Days of the U.S. Justice Department has filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court that calls for redefining what constitutes child pornography.

The brief, filed in the case of Knox v. U.S., seeks to overturn the conviction of an alleged child pornographer. It argues child pornography must meet two criteria: 1) it "must include visible depiction of the child's genitalia" and 2) it "must depict the child lasciviously engaging in sexual conduct."

The redefinition contrasts sharply with the current definition which places the emphasis on how the consumer intends to use the material instead of what the child is doing in the pictures.

"This departure from previous policy at the Justice Department focuses on the actions and intentions of the child rather than on the photographer or the consumer," said Lamar Cooper, whose work at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission includes pornography issues.

"If the child's actions and intentions are the key to defining illegal pornography, many kinds of child pornography could not be prosecuted," Cooper said. "Pictures of innocent children taking a bath, drugged children, threatened children and tricked children would be examples of nude photos that could escape on the grounds that the child pictured was not acting lasciviously."

Patrick Trueman, chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section in the Criminal Division of the Justice Department under President Bush, has said, "It is very foolish (to make the change). We prosecuted many child pornographers who filmed sleeping children or kids on the beach focusing on genitalia without anyone's knowledge. This would not constitute child pornography under the new Clinton administration definition."

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Cooper said, "At a time when there is deep concern over the alarming 10 percent annual rise in child abuse and molestation in America it is unthinkable that the Justice Department would relax its guidelines for prosecution of pornographers. If allowed to stand, this radical new policy would gut current child pornography laws leaving law enforcement agencies helpless and releasing an immediate flood of child pornography on our morally crippled society.

"Attorney General Janet Reno should be urged to take swift and deliberate action to reverse the position of the Justice Department and protect children from sexual exploitation," Cooper said.

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Woman's 'lost' New Testament  
found by new Mexico believer

By Michael Clingenpeel

Baptist Press  
10/20/93

CHATHAM, Va. (BP)--As Woman's Missionary Union director at Chatham Baptist Church, Eleanor O. Haskins promotes missions.

So in 1992, when the congregation voted to budget \$1,000 to send a member on a partnership mission trip, Haskins felt that someone needed to go, even if it meant she was that someone.

Well, she went -- but in a way and with results she never anticipated.

Actually, two other members at Chatham also sensed the need to volunteer -- Janice Overby, a Spanish teacher in Danville, Va., and Haskins' daughter, Mary Grace, a student at Averett College in Danville. Eleanor Haskins gracefully bowed out and Chatham Baptist voted to pay the expenses of Overby and Mary Grace Haskins to Mexico City.

Haskins assumed she would be a vicarious missionary -- living her missions desire through her daughter and a fellow church member.

The two missions volunteers gave each of the 10 members of Haskins' weekday Bible study group, not all of them Baptist, a Spanish New Testament. On the inside cover each wrote the plan of salvation, signed her name and address and pledged to pray for the person who received the New Testament.

In August 1992 Janice Overby and Mary Grace Haskins accompanied a group from the Pittsylvania Baptist Association to Mexico City. Overby kept a record of how she distributed the New Testaments, but Haskins was disappointed to learn her New Testament was left at a Mexico City church in a box of Bible school materials.

Her disappointment ended in September. On Sept. 1 she received a letter from Melinda Kay Matthew, a student from Wheaton College who has taken a year off from school to be a missionary in Mexico. While training in Mexico City this summer, Matthew performed a mime show in a park. When an invitation to receive Christ was extended, a young mother of two, Marta Morales Guitierrez, responded. She was clutching a Spanish New Testament bearing the signature and address of Eleanor O. Haskins of Chatham, Va.

Haskins had gone to Mexico City after all.

"Imagine the joy I felt when I received this letter. I went to Mexico City and someone was brought to Christ through the New Testament I wrote God's plan in. God has a plan and I had a small part in that plan. Praise the Lord!"

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EDITORS' NOTE: A horizontal photo relating to (BP) story titled "Missionaries' goal in Haiti under siege: help poor survive," dated 10/19/93, will be mailed to state Baptist newspapers Oct. 21 by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

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