

(BP)

-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-8919
CompuServe ID# 70420,17

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232
NASHVILLE 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3906 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

August 5, 1994

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee
94-131**

TENNESSEE--SBC Cooperative Program gifts up 4 percent for 2nd month.
WASHINGTON--Baptist World Aid responds to Rwanda refugee crisis.
WASHINGTON--Hearing held on protecting homosexuals in employment.
WASHINGTON--Senate cuts funds for schools which promote homosexuality.
FLORIDA--Women on Mission plans finding wide acceptance.
NEW MEXICO--Women on Mission to include several small group options.
NEW MEXICO--Speakers say God's will may mean discomfort, risk.
NEW MEXICO--Layman answers God's call to pray for missionaries.
NEW MEXICO--Interactive computer program offers missions education.
NEW MEXICO--'Self-care' children need church ministries.
NEW MEXICO--Backyard Bible Clubs offer lots of ways to reach kids.
NEW MEXICO--He found a life of grace after his AIDS diagnosis.
NEW MEXICO--What he's learned about Baptists will help him lead, Hemphill says.
ARGENTINA--Medical evacuation planned for injured N.C. volunteer.
GERMANY--Dub Jackson to coordinate Western Europe crusades.
TENNESSEE--Marriage conference offered at Ridgecrest for deaf couples.
TENNESSEE--Michael W. Smith to appear in B&H 'Secret Adventure.'
TENNESSEE--Editors' note.

**SBC Cooperative Program gifts
up 4 percent for 2nd month**

**Baptist Press
8/5/94**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--For the second month in a row, Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts were up more than 4 percent above the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For July, the increase was 4.69 percent; for June it was 4.34 percent. CP receipts for the year stand at 3.31 percent above 1993.

The July CP total was \$12,030,817, compared to July 1993 of \$11,491,306; for an increase of \$539,511. For the 10 months of the fiscal year, total CP receipts stand at \$118,630,576, compared to the same period the previous fiscal year of \$114,835,034.

The SBC 1993-94 budget also has been surpassed for the 10 months: Required for this period is \$115,195,612, with receipts to date placing it more than \$3 million above the budget.

Designated gifts for the year, \$123,452,486, stand at .66 percent ahead of last year's total at this point, \$122,643,109, although July 1994's total of \$4,243,380 was 14.9 percent below July 1993 of \$4,986,491.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

--more--

State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries. The percentage of distribution is at the discretion of each state or regional convention.

--30--

**Baptist World Aid responds
to Rwanda refugee crisis**

**Baptist Press
8/5/94**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist World Aid, the relief and development program of the Baptist World Alliance, has joined with other relief agencies to send more than 300,000 pounds of medical supplies to Rwandan refugees in Goma, Zaire.

Baptists from North America, Canada, Denmark and Europe are helping to fund this significant BWAid effort that includes further shipments of medical supplies, water purification machines and, with the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, five medical teams to Zaire by Aug. 26.

"Baptists working together around the world are making it possible for BWAid to make a significant contribution," says Paul Montacute, BWAid director.

During the BWA general council meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, July 18-24, Baptists leaders from around the world pledged to give more than \$1.5 million in Rwandan refugee aid.

Eleazar Ziherambere, Rwandan Baptist leader and regional secretary for the BWA in Africa, pleaded with Baptists around the world to help his people.

"I cry, 'How long Lord, how long,'" said Ziherambere who fled for his life to Kenya and is now working to help Baptists in Rwanda. The BWA also is helping Ziherambere to resettle in Kenya and establish an office for African Baptists there.

During their Congress in Lillehammer, Norway, July 26-31 European Baptists gave approximately \$18,000 for Rwandan relief through BWAid. "This is one of the largest offerings for aid we have ever taken," said Karl-Heinz Walter, secretary of the European Baptist Federation.

Baptists in Denmark, who have special links to Rwanda because Danish Baptists started Baptist work there, are working through BWAid. In June, Knud Wumpelmann, president of the BWA, and Montacute visited Ziherambere in Nairobi, Kenya, to assure him of the love and support of Baptists for Rwanda.

Baptist groups who are providing funding for BWAid to send medical supplies and food to Rwandan refugees include the American Baptist Churches USA, the North American Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference.

BWAid also has sent money to Baptist leaders in neighboring Burundi for food for displaced pastors there. Several Baptist pastors and their families are living in a Baptist church in Zaire near the Burundi border, having fled tribal conflict in certain parts of Burundi.

BWAid continues to receive donations at 6733 Curran Street, McLean VA 22101.

--30--

**Hearing held on protecting
homosexuals in employment**

By Tom Strode

**Baptist Press
8/5/94**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Proposed homosexual rights employment legislation is not merely an expansion of civil rights but will produce "special privileges for an elite group that has unjustly played the victim card to advance," a law professor recently said in prepared testimony for a U.S. Senate committee.

--more--

The Employment Non-discrimination Act is "unique among federal civil rights laws in that for the first time legislation seeks to defend not status but particular behavior and declare that behavior to be both irrelevant to the employer's business and superior to the employer's and customer's interest," said Joseph Broadus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. "It can't be said that discrimination based on sexual behavior violates American values unless we have abandoned our traditional belief that sexual behavior choices profoundly reflect character."

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D.-Mass., the bill's chief sponsor, said, however, in a written opening statement, "This bill is not about granting special rights -- it is about righting senseless wrongs."

Broadus, an African American, and eight others testified before the Labor and Human Resources Committee on a Senate bill, S. 2238, which would prohibit employment discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals.

The bill provides an exemption for religious organizations, except in the case of for-profit activities. The legislation does not apply to the military. It does not require benefits for domestic partners.

Kennedy, chief sponsor of the bill, has 29 co-sponsors in the Senate. Rep. Gerry Studds, D.-Mass., is prime sponsor of a companion bill, H.R. 4636, in the House of Representatives. The House bill has 124 co-sponsors. Studds is one of two openly homosexual members of the House.

The Labor Committee hearing apparently was the first Congressional hearing on a homosexual rights bill held in Washington. Although a date for a committee vote has not been scheduled, such action is expected before Congress adjourns this fall, a committee spokesperson said.

Of the nine witnesses testifying before the committee July 29, only Broadus and Robert Knight of the Family Research Council opposed the legislation.

The legislation will not "open doors" for people who have been denied a "meaningful opportunity to participate in our economy," Broadus said. Surveys show homosexuals, on the average, rate much higher than the general population in income, job position and education, Broadus said.

In his prepared testimony, Knight said the bill will order Americans for the first time to "hire people they believe to be committing immoral acts precisely because they commit those acts."

"This legislation uses the power of law to protect sexual promiscuity," said Knight, FRC's director of cultural studies. "That would be bad at any time, but it is particularly irresponsible in the age of AIDS."

Although the bill says quotas for homosexuals are prohibited, both Broadus and Knight said the legislation would lead to unofficial quotas.

Kennedy said discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace is "too often a fact of life. Throughout the country, qualified employees live in fear of losing their livelihood for reasons that have nothing to do with their job skills or their job performance.

"Job discrimination is not only un-American -- it is counterproductive," he said. "It excludes qualified individuals, lowers work-force productivity and hurts us all."

Strong enough evidence of job discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals exists to warrant passage of the bill, said Chai Feldblum, a Georgetown University law professor testifying on behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

More than 50 such cases have reached federal and state courts, Feldblum said. More than 800 complaints in five years' time have been filed in seven of the eight states which have such anti-discrimination laws, she said.

The states which have laws prohibiting employment discrimination against homosexuals are Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Hawaii, California, New Jersey, Vermont and Minnesota. The District of Columbia also has such a law.

In addition to business and labor leaders who spoke in support of the bill, two homosexuals who said they experienced job discrimination also testified. A lesbian said she was fired at a Cracker Barrel restaurant in Georgia. The other was a Detroit postal service worker who said he was beaten by a co-worker and forced from his job by continuing harassment.

--30--

Senate cuts funds for schools
which promote homosexuality

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
8/5/94

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate recently passed an amendment prohibiting funding of any public school districts which teach homosexuality is a positive lifestyle.

In the 63-36 vote, 40 Republicans and 23 Democrats joined together to amend an education reauthorization bill to prevent a school district receiving federal funds from implementing a "program or activity that has either the purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative." The prohibited activities include "materials, instruction, counseling or other services on school grounds, or referral of a pupil to an organization that affirms a homosexual lifestyle."

"Obviously, we are pleased with the outcome of this amendment," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"It is unfortunate that the United States Congress must get involved in these matters, but local public school officials often ignore the pleas of concerned parents. Public schools should not be teaching values that are contrary to traditional values."

It remains to be seen if the amendment, adopted Aug. 1, will remain in the bill, which provides more than \$12 billion for elementary and secondary education. In March, the House of Representatives passed an amendment by Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, D.-Wash., saying school districts would decide the appropriateness of such programs. The Senate and House versions will go to a conference committee, which will report out a compromise bill.

"This is an important victory, but it may be short-lived," the CLC's Smith said. "The Unsoeld amendment is a gutting amendment and does not truly fix the problem. We are concerned that the conference committee is likely to approve the Unsoeld amendment instead of the Smith amendment in the final report."

Sen. Robert Smith, R.-N.H., and Sen. Jesse Helms, R.-N.C., sponsored the Senate amendment.

In defending his amendment on the Senate floor, Smith read from materials, some which he said "are so obscene that I cannot show them to the public. I cannot display them here, and I cannot hold them up. I cannot quote from them, because to put them on the airwaves in any way, shape or form would be considered obscene."

Calling the amendment's effect "very mean-spirited," Sen. Paul Wellstone, D.-Minn., said the language would prevent counseling at school for a sexually confused youth. Homosexual young people are more likely to commit suicide than heterosexuals, he said.

His amendment does not refer to emergency counseling but to counseling to affirm homosexuality, Smith said.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D.-Mass., said he opposed the amendment because it interferes with the responsibility of school districts to make such decisions.

--30--

Women on Mission plans
finding wide acceptance

By Susan Doyle

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP)--One by one the men and women show up at the Olive Baptist Church gym, ready for their aerobic activity of the day.

What they don't know is that before they begin to stretch their physical muscles, they will stretch their missions muscles.

Ethel Nicholson, the aerobics instructor, asks the group to form a circle. Holding hands, they begin their hour together with a time of prayer. But before they bow their heads, Nicholson shares a prayer request.

"Today, I'd like for us to remember Mindy Watson of Tyler, Texas," she begins. "Mindy is a missionary serving in Nepal, somewhere between China and India."

Quickly, Nicholson tells the group a little about Watson and her work and some of the modern conveniences the Southern Baptist missionary must do without.

"Any food she cooks for her family, she has to cook from scratch," she says. "And can you imagine having to wash clothes for two small children and a husband by hand?"

The group agrees to pray for Mindy Watson and her family.

"Flexibility is the key," Nicholson continues. "We all know what that means. At our age and in aerobics we know that if we don't stay flexible, we're in trouble. The same is true for missionaries. It helps them when they can be flexible in their work."

The group discusses the things they should pray for Watson. After prayer is offered on her behalf, the hour-long aerobic workout begins.

The senior adult aerobics class is just one of 20 aerobics classes Nicholson has used the material with -- increasing the missions awareness of more than 200 people within the church.

Olive Baptist is just one of more than 70 churches across the country which has participated in field tests of Women on Mission, the adult organization Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will offer beginning in the fall of 1995. Women on Mission will replace the current adult organizations WMU offers -- Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women.

The new approach to adult missions involvement was unveiled before WMU members attending WMU week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center July 16-22.

Other WMU members recently received a sneak preview to Women on Mission in the June issues of Royal Service, the magazine for Baptist Women members, and Contempo, the magazine for Baptist Young Women. Articles will continue to appear monthly in both magazines explaining the new organization and ways to prepare for the changes it will bring.

"We're not changing the purpose of our adult organization, but we are changing the structure and the approach," said Andrea Mullins, the WMU national specialist responsible for the Women on Mission field tests.

"We are simplifying the structure and the approach and making the organization much more flexible," she said.

Women on Mission will be a missions organization for adult women which encourages them to pray, give to missions, learn about missions, develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle and participate in the work of the church and the denomination.

Women may be involved in the new organization in three different ways:

-- Small group involvement. These groups form around lifestyle, need, interest, task or age. The aerobics group at Olive Baptist Church is an example of a group brought together by a mutual interest in aerobics, Mullins said. Each church can determine the number and kinds of groups it will have.

Other groups can be formed based on things such as interest in raising preschoolers, crafts, prayer, career or social issues.

The Women on Mission field tests have been used in offices among co-workers, with neighbors, in Sunday school class meetings, in a prison and in a variety of ways within the local church.

-- Individual involvement. Women who may not be able to participate in a small group on an ongoing basis may be involved individually, Mullins said. The magazine which WMU will publish for Women on Mission, Missions Mosaic, will include guidance for missions awareness and involvement for individuals.

-- Celebration experiences. All the women of the church will come together as many times during the year as they choose to celebrate what God is doing in their lives, in their groups and in their world, Mullins said.

"We will encourage Women on Mission members to use the celebration experiences as evangelistic opportunities, by inviting their non-churched friends to attend with them," she said.

The structure of the organization will be greatly simplified from the structure of current WMU adult organizations, she said.

"We believe the Women on Mission approach will meet any woman at her point of need and interest," Mullins said.

--30--

Women on Mission to include
several small group options

Baptist Press
8/5/94

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Women on Mission materials will include several small group options when it is introduced by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in churches in the fall of 1995. These include:

-- Prayer -- an option for women who are committed to intercession for each other, for missions needs and for missionaries at home and around the world;

-- Ministry -- an option for ongoing ministry involvement;

-- Witnessing -- an option for ongoing witnessing involvement;

-- Enterprisers -- an option for volunteer missions teams at home and abroad;

-- Multi-focus missions -- an option for groups that want to learn about missions, pray for and give to missions, grow spiritually and do ministry and witnessing projects;

-- Experiential -- an option for providing an experiential approach to learning about missions using the multi-focus materials;

-- Bible study -- an option for Bible study that focuses missions-related topics;

-- World issues -- an option that uses the most recent news headlines, newspaper articles, news magazines and missions magazines to discuss current issues and related missions concerns (group members will determine how they respond);

-- Round table -- an option for studying books that relate to missions and spiritual growth;

-- Spiritual development -- an option for spiritual growth using Missions Mosaic and other Women on Mission resources;

-- Support -- an option for women during seasons of crisis to receive encouragement that will enable them to grow spiritually and discover how God can use them and their experiences to help others;

-- Introductory -- an option to introduce young women graduating from high school and/or coming from Acteens and women who are new Southern Baptists to missions involvement through Women on Mission activities. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by WMU for girls in grades seven through 12.

-- Lifestyle -- an option for women who form a group around a common lifestyle for the purpose of spiritual growth and fellowship that enables them to fulfill God's plan for their lives;

-- Other -- other options may be available through Missions Mosaic and other Women on Mission resources.

--30--

Speakers say God's will
may mean discomfort, risk

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--God's call to missions may include discomfort, risk and devastating circumstances, along with the comforting assurance of service in the center of his will, according to speakers and participants in "Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" July 30-Aug. 5 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"We Southern Baptists are very comfortable thinking about corporate identity, but the focus of this week is on the individual," Baptist Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. told the 1,450 people attending the Sunday morning worship service. The theme of conference was "Be the One."

During the week, dozens made commitments to volunteer and career missions service while many others committed to mission support through prayer and giving. Participants in the Jericho missions project coordinated by the Brotherhood Commission constructed furniture and toys for the Templo Bautista of Lopez Mateos, Mexico.

As he did with Moses, God may use humbling activities, isolated places or devastating events to draw a Christian to a life-changing encounter, Draper said.

"Devastation can make you bitter, angry or hostile. Or you can see in the devastation that there is God in the midst of that devastation waiting to greet you."

Describing dangers being faced today by missionaries around the world, Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin said God's call may be accompanied by discomfort and risk.

He said he met recently with the 11 Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated from the African nation of Rwanda, and all 11 are committed to continued ministry and service with the people of that country.

Despite the risk, "the safest place your family could be is where you are in the center of God's will," Rankin said.

Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said, "Nothing on earth could keep our missionaries in places like these (discomfort and danger) but God's call and an obedient and willing spirit.

"Will you pray that God will send your son or your daughter?" she asked.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis challenged participants to "crucify your dreams of benefits and creature comforts and say, 'Yes, Lord, I'll go.'"

Noting 71,000 Southern Baptists volunteered for short-term home missions projects in 1993 and 10,000 completed short-term foreign missions efforts, he challenged others to give a week, two weeks or more as volunteers.

"You'll come home more fulfilled than from any trip to Disney World or the beach," Lewis said.

Throughout the week, home and foreign missionaries shared their testimonies and led conferences.

David Brownfield, who works in water development in Ethiopia, described the difficulty of leaving for mission service while his mother awaited a lung transplant. She died while he was gone.

Stephen Hurdle, a church planter in northern Nevada, said he experienced ridicule when he spoke openly about his faith at a high school graduation service.

Despite the embarrassment, he said, "I don't think of these as real risks."

Luba Smyntyna, 18, a native of Moldavia who participated in Youth Jericho, described her father's imprisonment for distributing Bibles and Christian literature in the communist country.

Also, students were required to wear the star of Lenin on their uniforms.

Smyntyna and her family came to the United States four years ago. They are now members of Galvary Baptist Church of Rapid City, S.D.

--more--

Now living in freedom, she has relished mission trips with the church youth group. "We never want glory to go to ourselves," she said.

Jericho was sponsored by the Home and Foreign Mission boards, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission.

--30--

Layman answers God's call
to pray for missionaries

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
8/5/94

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--David Forsyth has attended seven of the 12 Jericho missions festivals held since 1989.

He attends with a single-minded focus -- to meet home and foreign missionaries he has prayed for and corresponded with and to discover other missionaries to add to his prayer lists.

"I feel God has called me to the ministry of prayer for foreign and home missionaries," said Forsyth, a member of First Baptist Church of Suitland, Md., who was attending his first Jericho at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. He has attended all six conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.), including one earlier this summer.

Forsyth, a researcher for the National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service, said he began his prayer ministry in 1983. Today, his prayer lists include more than 200 missionaries.

He began corresponding with missionaries in 1985 and writes an average of five to six letters per week.

Each night he prays for those whose names are on the birthday prayer calendar for the next day.

"In many parts of the world it's already the next day," he said.

At other times he prays for missionaries he has met at Jericho, for those he reads about in missions magazines and for those who have made prayer requests known through printed material.

He designates specific times to pray, including getting up an hour early on some days. Tuesdays he prays for one list of foreign missionaries; Saturdays, another list. Other days he prays for home missionaries and emeritus missionaries.

For Forsyth, the greatest rewards have come through letters he receives and conversations he has with missionaries for whom he has prayed, confirmation that his prayers have been effective.

"God has called me to do this," he said. "When I retire I'll have more time to pray."

More than 1,400 people attended Jericho at Glorieta which was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Home and Foreign Mission boards, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union.

--30--

Interactive computer program
offers missions education

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
8/5/94

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Simply by touching a computer screen, the 1,450 people attending the Jericho missions festival could find out what foreign missionaries share their birthday, choose one, call up a screen with the latest address, print it out and take it home to write a letter to that missionary.

By choosing another screen, they could follow the same process for missionary prayer requests or priority needs on the mission field.

They also could learn the names of area directors of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and see their photos on the screen. They could choose an area of the world and see a 30-40 second video with music from the region, narration and on-screen facts and figures.

--more--

This hands-on experience with foreign missions was premiered during the July 30-Aug. 5 conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Three personal computers and a printer provided the hardware for the Windows-based interactive, multimedia exhibit developed under the auspices of the FMB management information office, directed by Bill Nance.

"This is actually our third generation of hardware and software used for missions education," said Nance. The FMB started about 10 years ago with Commodore and Atari computers and then moved up to DOS-based computer activities.

"Our emphasis is on missions education," Nance said. "The Foreign Mission Board considers that to be a very important priority."

Preliminary results seemed promising, he said.

"It seems to be appealing to all age groups," Nance said. "That was one of our goals." People with little knowledge of computers are less hesitant to try the touch-screen process.

Mike Fowler, a church planner strategist from Arkansas, said after his first experiment with the program it has "greater potential for keeping information updated than with printed materials." Among the features, he praised access to the names of children of missionaries to pray for on their birthdays.

After a demonstration from Nance, emeritus missionary Wana Ann Fort tried her hand at the touch screen features and then showed others how they worked.

"This is fascinating," she said, "although I haven't had a chance to work through all of it."

"Cool!" said teen-ager Laura Jordan, whose parents are missionaries to Ecuador. She selected her birthday, using the screens, to see if she knew any missionaries who shared the day.

Nance said some Jericho participants with missionary personnel directories have taken advantage of the opportunity to use the new computers to update addresses. Others have learned of special project needs and their costs in areas of their interest and printed out the information to take back to their churches.

About four months in development, Nance said "we're using data (information, logos, art, video) that is already being collected by different offices of the Foreign Mission Board. Nobody has had to do any extra work to get the data. It can be updated at any time."

An additional feature he hopes to add is missionary personnel needs through which potential career, short-term or volunteer missionaries could match their skills with needs around the world.

For the future, Nance envisions multiplying the use of the software and data through SBCNet, the Southern Baptist computer information service coordinated by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

He hopes the software can be uploaded for subscribers and the data uploaded separately and updated periodically. Churches or individuals then would be able to utilize it for their own education or that of church members.

Jericho was sponsored by the Foreign and Home Mission boards, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission.

--30--

'Self-care' children
need church ministries

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
8/5/94

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--While some so-called latchkey kids go home after school, let themselves into locked homes or apartments and wait alone for their parents to come home from work, others don't even have keys and instead wander the streets daily for several hours.

Both types of "self-care" children need the caring ministry many Southern Baptist churches could provide, Elaine Dooley told participants in a conference session during "Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" July 30-Aug. 5 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

--more--

However, she emphasized, a decision to launch a ministry with latchkey kids should be preceded by careful study and planning.

Dooley, a Home Mission Board missionary working in church and community missions in Las Cruces, N.M., said the spark for most church ministries is "one person who sees the need and can identify what should be done."

After that person talks with the pastor, the next step is forming a study committee of "people who care about kids."

The committee should begin by finding out what already is being done in the community, Dooley said.

"Some communities have so much going in child care there is no need for another program," she said.

If a need appears to exist with a particular age group of children or teens, the committee should find out legal requirements for such a ministry. Dooley emphasized laws differ from state to state.

Laws may be a factor in deciding whether to charge for the ministry, she said, because "usually if you're offering something at a cost to the child, the law is different than when it is free."

Even if there appears to be a need the church can meet, the study committee should carefully investigate costs in space, equipment, insurance and volunteers before proceeding to develop a recommendation, Dooley said.

While most churches at first assume a latchkey ministry should operate five days a week, she urged starting small.

"Many successful programs only meet one or two days a week. It's very difficult to get volunteers for five days a week," Dooley said.

She warned participants not to automatically expect unanimous support for a latchkey ministry.

"Sometimes you'll find the attitude, even in your church, that if parents really cared they wouldn't leave them (children) alone. Most of the time that's not the case," she said. "If we can relieve that mother or father's mind for one or two days a week, we are providing a service."

The study committee also must determine what kinds of activities will be offered through the ministry, Dooley said. They can range from Bible study to games, crafts or tutoring.

In a tutoring ministry, a volunteer may be assigned two to four children to work with on an ongoing basis. Building a relationship with the children is as important as helping them with their schoolwork, she said.

"Tutors need to know it will cost something to get involved emotionally with these kids," she said.

Latchkey ministries open doors to relationships with parents as well as children, she noted.

"When I show love to somebody's kid it opens the heart of the parent. Let parents know the reason for the ministry is the love of Christ," she urged.

After the church has voted to start a latchkey ministry, Dooley said workers must be enlisted and trained, materials obtained, a registration form including parental permission developed and a file established for each child.

"Some of the kids you work with may not learn anything academically," Dooley said. "But they will have learned what love is and that Jesus loves them just the way they are."

Jericho was sponsored by the Home and Foreign Mission boards, Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission.

Backyard Bible Clubs offer
lots of ways to reach kids

By Linda Lawson

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Whether conducted in a back or front yard, a carport, garage, park, mall or on the parking lot of a discount store, Backyard Bible Clubs and Mission Vacation Bible Schools represent opportunities to reach out to children with the love of Christ.

"Boys and girls don't come in mass to church today, so we have to go to them," Linda Thompson told participants in a session on missions and Vacation Bible School during "Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" July 30-Aug. 5 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Thompson, marketing/public relations coordinator in the Baptist Sunday School Board's church growth group, said "one of the very best ways to get into your community is through a VBS program."

Such a program may include VBS conducted at the church, mission VBS at a possible site for a new church and Backyard Bible Clubs at homes throughout the community to involve older preschoolers and children as well as positively impact their parents. Backyard Bible Clubs also may be conducted as part of mission projects in other communities.

They have two purposes, Thompson said: to discover prospects and to "establish the church as a lighthouse in the community."

Backyard Bible Clubs are designed to last one and a half hours and are conducted from three to five days. They are "targeted for those with limited Bible knowledge" and include Bible stories, games and other activities, she said.

In selecting sites for Backyard Bible Clubs, Thompson listed four requirements: be within walking or biking distance for the children, have restroom facilities and a phone and have shelter in case of rain.

"The last thing you want to do is call it off" due to weather, she said.

Despite the fact the project is called Backyard Bible Clubs, Thompson recommended front yards as a preferred location because they "draw more children."

Before the club begins, Thompson urged variety in publicizing the event. Actions may include sending youth door to door with publicity materials, putting leaflets on windshields in the neighborhood, working with an area grocery store to decorate bags announcing the club and decorating the yard in advance and placing a sign there announcing when the club will begin.

While Backyard Bible Clubs generally are considered mission activities, they may be the best option for churches using rental facilities that may only be available on Sundays, she said.

To staff Backyard Bible Clubs, Thompson said a church needs one director, one host or hostess for each location and one worker for every seven children or four preschoolers.

Club goals will not be achieved if workers fail to keep careful records of children who participate and then take appropriate follow-up actions, she said.

At the conclusion of club activities, Thompson said each child should receive a postcard or letter from the hostess, pastor or Sunday school teacher where the child would belong. The card should be followed by a phone call or home visit. Then the church should conduct a family night or other type of special activity for club participants and their families.

If the church plans to hold VBS after the clubs, then club participants should be invited, she said.

Backyard Bible Club curriculum produced by the BSSB includes a stand-up tablet with teaching procedures on one side and games and teaching pictures on the other to be visible to the children, Thompson noted. Daily take-home leaflets also are available.

She urged creative thinking by church leaders in matching needs with VBS approaches with all age groups, including holding a VBS for senior adults in a retirement center or nursing home.

--more--

"We never know the power, impact or how the Holy Spirit can use these approaches to reach people in our communities," she said.

Jericho was sponsored by the BSSB, Home and Foreign Mission boards, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union.

--30--

He found a life of grace
after his AIDS diagnosis

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
8/5/94

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--After living an openly homosexual lifestyle, Mike Hawkins returned to his parents' Oklahoma City home in 1987, seeking their help and God's guidance to stop homosexual behavior and put his desires behind him.

While he had tried before, this time the difference came through Bible study and prayer. "God was bigger than homosexuality."

Then in 1991, Hawkins was diagnosed with AIDS, a result of his former lifestyle. Told he would likely die in the hospital of a type of pneumonia commonly associated with AIDS, he and his parents decided to go public "and let people know what was going on in our lives."

"What I learned here was the power of prayer," Hawkins told conferees at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. "I started to respond to treatment. When they said I would be dead and headed to the morgue, I was headed home."

Hawkins told his story about homosexuality and about AIDS, challenging Christians to care, during sessions of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship and "Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival" July 30-Aug. 5.

"Freedom from the homosexual lifestyle is not a method but a person, Jesus Christ," says Hawkins, who directs a counseling ministry in Oklahoma City for men and women desiring to cease living a homosexual lifestyle.

And "AIDS is not a disease of death only," said Hawkins, who continues to be relatively healthy despite an immune system that is virtually destroyed. "AIDS teaches us how to live each day to the fullest."

Hawkins attributes his homosexual desires to problems with gender identity that began when, as a young child, he played with the only children in his neighborhood who happened to be all girls. As he grew older he desired friendships with boys his own age,

"No matter how hard I tried to be part of that (boys' activities), I always did something wrong. I felt more and more isolated from men around me. I lost touch with my own masculinity," he said.

As an adolescent, Hawkins said he mistook his desire for relationships with boys for sexual desires.

"I believed I had been born that way, that I had no choice," he said.

However, Hawkins, who had grown up in a Christian home, concluded the idea that he had always been homosexual "did not match what I had learned all my life about Jesus Christ."

He attributed his recovery in large part to his parents who, he said, never stopped loving him despite the fact that they disapproved of his lifestyle. His father, Marlin, is comptroller for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

"Their love was always there for me, even though I said some horrible, hateful things to them," Hawkins said.

He acknowledged other Christians struggling with homosexuality do not have the support he had, urging conferees to "stand by them by loving them unconditionally without compromising your convictions."

Hawkins, who directs the Christian AIDS Network in Oklahoma City and speaks nationwide about homosexuality and about AIDS, said, for him, AIDS has been more about blessings than about death.

"In my weakness I have to depend on God's strength. I find hope and I only find hope in one way, submitting to God. It's not my strength that keeps me alive," he said.

--more--

Living life to the fullest for Hawkins has included an even deeper relationship with his parents, a dramatically improved relationship with his brother and taking advantage of every opportunity to tell his story.

"Each time I share my story is a reminder of God's grace in my life," he said.

To those struggling with how to relate and minister to people with AIDS, Hawkins emphasizes the power of touch and hugs.

Also, he urges, listen, citing his doctor as a positive example.

"We may not talk about my physical condition for the first 10 minutes (of a visit)," he said. "Her focus is first of all on me as a person."

While he emphasized the blessings of his life and ministry, Hawkins acknowledged its difficulties that have included "opposition from the homosexual community and also rejection from the Christian community."

"Sometimes that can be very challenging," he said.

"But there's always a glimmer of hope when you see the joy on a person's face when they realize they are free from a bondage they have known all their life."

Jericho was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission boards, Woman's Missionary Union, Sunday School Board and Brotherhood Commission.

--30--

What he's learned about Baptists
will help him lead, Hemphill says By John Loudat

Baptist Press
8/5/94

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--In-depth exposure to Southern Baptist life the past two years will help him lead Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Ken Hemphill.

Hemphill, director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth in Atlanta since its founding in 1992, was elected Southwestern's president in a unanimous trustee vote July 28.

"The exposure I've had to Southern Baptist life through these two years of traveling through various states -- and talking to pastors about their needs and their hurts and some of the things they've been concerned about not having been taught at seminary -- has given me a much broader perspective for understanding what, perhaps, needs to be done in the seminary training place," Hemphill said in an interview with the Baptist New Mexican newsjournal three days prior to his election.

Hemphill was en route to Glorieta Baptist Conference Center from Albuquerque, where he and a Home Mission Board film crew had filmed a "Churches Alive and Growing" segment on First Baptist Church for the HMB's "MissionsUSA" video.

Hemphill said he was drawn to the Albuquerque church's ministry-centered program for reaching the inner city and beyond. First Baptist "is a model of a church that's made a commitment to stay in the downtown with a vision, purpose and strategy for reaching the city," he said.

Of his exposure among Southern Baptists, Hemphill added it should help draw new students to the seminary. Various pastors know his heart for evangelism, missions and the church, he said, and when their young people surrender to the ministry and ask about seminary, the pastors may be inclined to recommend Southwestern.

After news of his nomination broke in early July, Hemphill said many people wrote him how they believed God had prepared him for the opportunity.

Hemphill mentioned how he has pastored churches in a variety of settings, rural, county seat, overseas -- as well as a large mega-church, First Baptist in Norfolk, Va., taking it from "a rather small declining church" to one of the largest in the Southern Baptist Convention. He also has an academic background in study and teaching and has been on several seminary campuses lecturing on church growth in the past two years.

--more--

Asked about the direction he plans to lead the seminary, Hemphill noted, "I want to have a real relationship with the faculty. I feel like, in a sense, they're my staff," specifically citing the importance of the president ministering to his staff.

"I will also focus on the seminary having a real sense of family and community." Emphasizing he did not know whether that already is a reality, he said his desire is for the seminary to be a model of what a Christian community ought to be like.

He said he plans to speak regularly in chapel, communicating his heart with the seminary family.

Hemphill said he is not opposed to professors investigating aberrant theological concepts because the students will have to face them during their ministries. He said he is opposed, however, to faculty members advocating views contrary to the Baptist Faith and Message, the inerrancy of Scripture, the Lordship and preeminence of Christ and the mission and purpose of the school.

Hemphill said he has no problem with the term "inerrancy," but he won't insist that the faculty use it to define the nature of Scripture. "I don't want to quibble with terminology. ... What I'm really looking for is professors who have the conviction that the Bible is the reliable witness of God to man, that it is absolutely trustworthy and truthful in all that it says and does. I'm looking for men and women who will teach with a heart and passion for the Word of God and believe that it is a reliable witness."

Hemphill said he wasn't sure how much negative fallout there has actually been in the wake of the March 9 firing of the school's previous president, Russell Dilday. Some finances may be in question but summer and fall enrollment are good, he said.

Support for the seminary will continue, he added, as Southern Baptists see fair treatment of students and faculty and as "the seminary demonstrates that it's going to be a quality academic institution, continue its heritage of missions and evangelism and turn out men and women who will make an impact for the kingdom of God and Southern Baptists.

After reading the institution's history, Hemphill said, "I feel privileged to have the opportunity to build on that strong heritage and foundation, which is focused on missions and evangelism, the heart of church growth. Those who have been supporters in the past don't need to fear there's going to be a radical departure from that great heritage."

Concerning those who have supported Southwestern financially in the past but have had reservations about continuing their support since Dilday's dismissal, Hemphill said he wants to listen to their concerns and share his heart and vision for the future. He said he would remind them that they gave because they cared about the seminary. By withdrawing their money, they aren't punishing the trustees but the faculty and students they care about, Hemphill said.

Hemphill said he views the seminary's trustees the same as he has deacons and church council members in the churches he has led. He said he always tried to treat them as fellow laborers.

In the event of impasse, he said, "The first thing I would do is try to listen to what they say, to hear what their complaint is, because they might have some legitimate concerns." He would then modify his plan based on their constructive criticism.

"I don't detect the early church trying to rally the troops to outvote each other. They really tried to spend time with God, discerning what the will of God was. I have the conviction that when God's people submit their will to him, he'll give them direction to bring them to one mind," Hemphill continued.

--more--

When asked how he was feeling about being considered to take the helm of the nation's largest seminary, Hemphill concluded, "It's a profoundly humbling experience. I don't think that anybody would want to say in the flesh, 'I feel qualified to do that.' But at the same time, it's an exciting challenge because I've always believed that God always provides the resources when he calls you to a task."

What kind of adjustments does a person like Hemphill make to his schedule in the days surrounding a major turning point in his life? Hemphill just kept on carrying out his already-busy ministry. At Glorieta, he taught church growth conferences two days, flew with his family to Fort Worth the evening of July 27, met with seminary trustees and was elected to his new post the next day, flew back home to Atlanta that night, saw his 17-year-old daughter off on a mission trip to Romania, flew back to an interim pastorate in Oklahoma the following weekend, then was in "three or four" states the following week.

Hemphill's plans were to be at Southwestern for a staff retreat the third week in August, be there for the incoming of new students for the fall semester, then move his family to Fort Worth the first part of September.

--30--

Medical evacuation planned
for injured N.C. volunteer

By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press
8/5/94

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--Southern Baptist volunteer Paul Sutherland, 66, still in a coma from a brain contusion sustained July 20, was to be evacuated from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Durham, N.C., Aug. 6.

Sutherland, from Sanford, N.C., remains in critical condition in intensive care at British Hospital in Buenos Aires. He suffered severe head wounds in a fall from a ladder while painting the library of the International Baptist Theological Seminary there.

"He's still in a deep coma," said Sutherland's wife, Julie, in a phone interview Aug. 4 from Buenos Aires. "He's running a fever, so they're watching him real closely. ... He doesn't respond to anything, but his swelling is going down. His head was three times the (normal) size when I first saw him. Today he looks more like himself, but he's a very sick man."

Unless his condition became worse, Sutherland was to travel from Buenos Aires to Miami on a Chilean airliner the night of Aug. 6. A medical escort was to accompany him, said Sutherland's daughter, Vivien Hagler, in a telephone interview from her home in Charlotte, N.C.

Mrs. Sutherland and their son Steve, who went to Buenos Aires several days after the accident, will leave for North Carolina the same night on another airline. From Miami, Sutherland will fly in an air ambulance to Durham, where he will be admitted to Duke University Medical Center Aug. 7.

"There haven't been any (recent) setbacks (in his condition), said Hagler, a nurse. "But they could abort this (medical evacuation) right as they're ready to load him on the plane, if something were to go wrong."

Should that happen, the Sutherlands' other son, Stuart, would travel to Buenos Aires to be with his parents, and Steve would return to the United States.

Their sister said a physician at British Hospital told the family "right off the bat there's very little hope of (Sutherland) surviving. And if he does, he'll be disabled."

Sutherland underwent two surgeries in less than 24 hours on July 21. One was to remove a large blood clot from the right side of his brain, the other in part to relieve pressure caused by swelling around the brain. He has been breathing without the aid of a respirator since July 23. However, because of fluid buildup in his lungs, physicians performed a tracheotomy Aug. 1 to help him breathe more easily.

--more--

"Pray that the Lord will give us the strength we need to carry through. There'll be many difficult days. We realize that," said Mrs. Sutherland.

"I don't know what I would have done without Steve and our (Foreign Mission Board) missionaries," said Mrs. Sutherland. "Before I got here our missionaries stayed at the hospital with my husband around the clock. ... When I got here, I kept saying, 'Thank you, Lord,' because I knew he wasn't alone."

During intensive care visiting hours, Mrs. Sutherland said she sits by her husband's hospital bed, reading Scriptures, talking and singing to him. "People may think I'm crazy, but ... I feel like he can hear me."

She also gives away evangelistic tracts in Spanish to family members of other intensive care patients. "The Lord has used me," said Mrs. Sutherland. "Many of these people are without hope. They have a religion of works (Roman Catholicism) and their faith doesn't work for them. I cry, too, but I have hope. ... All I can do is put my arms around them and give the tracts Paul had in his suitcase."

Mrs. Sutherland told of giving a tract to an elderly woman whose brother was in intensive care. "She said, 'I go home at night and read it over and over again.' Today her brother died."

Another Argentine named Rodolfo Luminoso was influenced by a tract Mrs. Sutherland's husband gave him at the Miami airport. The North Carolina volunteer and other Southern Baptist volunteers from Memphis, Tenn., met Luminoso while waiting to board their flight to Buenos Aires. They shared their Christian faith with the Argentine and gave him the phone number of the Baptist seminary where they later worked as maintenance volunteers.

Two days after Sutherland's accident Luminoso visited the seminary. He made a spiritual decision while talking with a seminary student and Southern Baptist missionary Gene Vincent, who coordinated the volunteer project.

"I feel like Paul would say, 'That's what it's all about. It was worth it,'" said Mrs. Sutherland.

Sutherland, a member of Cool Springs Baptist Church in Sanford, has gone on many mission trips in the United States and overseas through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "He's always really excited when he comes back, because he gets as much out of it personally" as he puts into it, said his daughter.

She said she is praying for the neurosurgeon at Duke who will treat her father after his arrival.

"If he (the doctor) isn't a Christian, and my dad wakes up and can talk, then that's what he's going to hear (Sutherland's testimony) from dad. There's no doubt about it."

--30--

Dub Jackson to coordinate
Western Europe crusades

By Marty Croll

Baptist Press
8/5/94

FRANKFURT, Germany (BP)--A former Southern Baptist missionary and leader of numerous volunteer crusades overseas has been named to coordinate evangelistic crusades in Western Europe during the next two years for the Foreign Mission Board.

W.H. "Dub" Jackson and his wife, Doris, will work with Baptist leaders in the 11 countries of the region to plan outreach projects involving Southern Baptists and European churches.

"Christians of Western Europe are praying for God to show himself mighty in their lands," said John Floyd, the board's area director for Europe who assigned Jackson to the post through the board's International Service Corps program. "I believe one of the best servants of the Lord for this type of ministry is Dub Jackson."

The new position signals a departure from business as usual in Western Europe, where church growth has seemed somewhat sluggish compared to other parts of the world, said Eddie Cox, associate area director for Europe. But Baptist leaders there seem ready for the new approach, he said.

--more--

A recent tour through the region by the Jacksons "convinces me that the national Baptist unions are open to receiving as many volunteers as we can organize into teams," Cox said.

In preliminary conversations with Baptist leaders in the region, Jackson sensed great interest. "Our first meetings with leaders of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Spain and France were some of the best we have ever had," he said.

"Partnership efforts are now planned for Denmark and Spain in 1995, with Norway and Sweden thinking of 1996 and Germany suggesting the fall of 1997," he added. France is considering requesting up to 500 Southern Baptists to work in 50 French churches in 1996.

Jackson and his wife were Foreign Mission Board missionaries to Japan from 1951-68. After leaving the board, they worked with missionaries and Baptist churches overseas in more than 85 volunteer projects. In 1990-91 they worked in a hotel chapel in Japan through the board's International Service Corps.

Most recently they have been living in Makaha, Hawaii, where he has been chapel director for the Makaha Valley Chapel at the Sheraton Hotel and Resort there.

They both were graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. He received a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

--30--

Charles Richardson, media director at Hardin-Simmons University, contributed to this story.

**Marriage conference offered
at Ridgecrest for deaf couples**

**Baptist Press
8/5/94**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The Oct. 28-30 Fall Festival of Marriage Conference at Ridgecrest will offer a special workshop track for deaf couples, according to the coordinator of the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored event.

"For the first time we will have a set of workshops at Fall Festival of Marriage that is led and geared to deaf couples," said David Huebner, marriage enrichment events specialist for the board.

The conferences will be offered at the fourth marriage conference planned this fall at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.

"There will be five workshops led by Jerry and Gaynell Seale, and they will also interpret in our general sessions," he said.

The Seales are members of First Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., where Jerry is minister of deaf ministries.

The workshops in which Gaynell Seale will interpret include "Intimate Enemy: Closeness in Marriage;" "Bed and Board: Communications in Marriage;" "Separate Lives: Establishing Boundaries in Marriage;" "Playing by Heart: Establishing a Sense of Belonging;" and "The Binds that Tie: Expectations in Marriage."

Couples interested in obtaining more information about the conference may call the Sunday School Board at (615) 251-2277 or Ridgecrest at 1-800-588-7222, Huebner said.

--30--

**Michael W. Smith to appear
in B&H 'Secret Adventure'**

**Baptist Press
8/5/94**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Christian recording artist Michael W. Smith will make his acting debut in the fourth episode of Broadman & Holman Publishers' "Secret Adventures" series, to be released in September.

--more--

An announcement of Smith's appearance in the episode, "Shrug," was published in the August issue of Bookstore Journal, a trade publication for the Christian publishing and retailing industries.

The video, which deals with self-esteem, will include Smith's character, Billy Holden, a music superstar who visits the small college town of Hampton Falls, N.J., for a big concert. In the course of the story, he performs a ballad he composed specifically for this episode.

"Secret Adventures," which began production last summer in Hollywood, Calif., is a series of morally based mini-movies targeted for children ages 4 to 14. Series creators and producers are George Taweel and Rob Loos, who previously produced the award-winning "McGee & Me!" children's video series.

The episodes feature a seventh grade babysitter who keeps her young charges, ages 7 and 9, entertained by inviting them to join her in fanciful excursions. Scripts use real and imaginary experiences to teach how important Bible truths are for every day.

"Secret Adventures" videos are available through Christian retail stores, including Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores. Broadman & Holman Publishers is the trade publishing imprint of Baptist Sunday School Board.

--30--

EDITORS' NOTE: Please delete the (BP) story, titled "Fryson's career affirms God's all-sufficiency," dated 7/14/94. The individual featured in the story, Robert Fryson, died July 27 after suffering a stroke in Washington. His funeral was Aug. 1 at Peoples Community Church in Washington.

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, TN 37234

F
I
R
S
T

C
L
A
S
S

Southern Baptist Library
and Archives