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Southern Baptists bring love  
and life to Rwandan children

By Bob Carey

Baptist Press  
9/2/94

GOMA, Zaire (BP)--Donna Schmoyer reluctantly boarded the DC-3 for the flight from Goma, Zaire. For Schmoyer, it had seemed like a short 12 days that she had worked in the camps there with Rwandan refugee children.

"I wish I could stay. These children need so much love. I'd stay if I could," said Schmoyer, a nurse and student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Schmoyer was a member of the first team of volunteers to work with children as part of a cooperative effort by the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission to help the refugees who fled Rwanda several weeks ago.

The first team consisted of two doctors, four nurses and eight others who helped construct a new camp for unaccompanied minors just outside Goma. Team members came from South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, New Mexico and California.

The site for the children's camp was chosen after a Zairian church donated the land. The church was begun five years ago when Rwandan national missionaries visited Goma and began a mission.

During their 12-day stay, the volunteers helped prepare the camp site, supervising local Zaire and Rwandan workers who distributed sand after the French army had bulldozed the volcanic rock into a level piece of ground.

"This is probably one of the most level pieces of ground in Goma," said George Crouch of Charlotte, N.C. "We've worked hard, and the French have been extremely helpful in getting this done."

Indeed, the site may be the best of all relief sites in and around the Magunga camp that holds an estimated 800,000 refugees. Most of the camps for unaccompanied children were set up quickly, with no time for leveling. The Southern Baptist volunteers looked at their site with a long-term concept.

"We want our camp to be different and for people to look at it as a model camp," said Stan Le, Southern Baptist missionary to Rwanda and project coordinator in Goma. "We're looking for Rwandans and Zairians to run it with an attitude of Christian love."

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"When our volunteers were in the other camps, the people and children responded to their loving affection. The love of Christ showed through and it made a difference.

"You're the only ones that give our children love," one Rwandan mother told volunteers. "Please don't leave."

For all the volunteers, leaving Goma was a mixture of emotions. The living conditions in Goma aren't easy, but the rewards are great. Every member of the first team answered a resounding "yes" when asked if they would do it again.

"I'd go back today if it was possible," said Dellana Talley of Dallas, who served as the cook for the volunteers. "I just wish I didn't have to go back to my real job. This was a real blessing."

Currently, the second team is in Goma with teams scheduled through November. After that point, the Brotherhood Commission and the Foreign Mission Board will evaluate the need for additional relief teams.

For more information or to contribute to the Rwanda refugee relief effort, contact Southern Baptist hunger and relief at the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767 Richmond, VA 23230-6767 or the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38104.

A 24-hour Rwanda Project information line has been established at the Brotherhood Commission, (901) 278-7839, for the latest information on relief efforts.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers Aug. 30, by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press as part of earlier coverage on refugees in Zaire by Carey, may used with this story.

Gore misrepresents U.S. position  
on abortion, pro-lifers charge By Tom Strode

Baptist Press  
9/2/94

WASHINGTON (BP)--Led by the Vatican, critics of United States abortion policy charged Vice President Al Gore with misrepresenting the Clinton administration's position as a controversial summit on world population neared.

A week after Gore said the administration "has not sought, does not seek and will not seek an international right to abortion," a spokesman for Pope John Paul II said Aug. 31, "The draft population document, which has the United States as its principal sponsor, contradicts, in reality, Mr. Gore's statement," according to reports in The News York Times and Catholic News Service.

Meanwhile, a Southern Baptist official cited other evidence.

"It is highly disingenuous for the vice president to claim that the Clinton administration has not and does not support abortion as a method of birth control," said James A. Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Their policies both domestically and internationally contradict his statements."

One of Congress' pro-life leaders, Rep. Chris Smith, R.-N.J., told The Washington Times the administration's position is "pro-abortion, and they are trying to sanitize it. This is a public relations gambit to try to woo the Vatican and Catholic voters, but it hasn't worked, because no one got suckered."

The criticism of the Clinton administration came a few days before the start of the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Population and Development, Sept. 5-13 at Cairo, Egypt. At the summit, delegates from about 170 countries will finalize a document drafted in April in New York City.

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Pro-lifers expressed outrage beginning in the spring when the existence of a U.S. State Department cable to its consulates was made public. The March cable requested diplomats to inform governments the United States "believes that access to safe, legal and voluntary abortion is a fundamental right of all women." The cable said the preliminary text prior to the April drafting meeting was inadequate and the United States delegation would be "working for stronger language on the importance of access to abortion services."

As the conference has neared, the Vatican and Muslim governments have expressed strong opposition to the document.

In criticizing Gore's portrayal of the Clinton administration position, Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls quoted portions of the draft document calling for access to "fertility regulation" and "pregnancy termination," The New York Times reported. Such language is synonymous with abortion on demand, the Vatican said, according to the Times.

In describing the Clinton administration as supporting abortion as a method of birth control, the CLC's Smith pointed to President Clinton's reversal of a policy prohibiting U.S. funding of family planning organizations which promote abortion internationally; the administration's attempts to restore funding to the United Nations Population Fund, which supports the coercive abortion policy of the People's Republic of China; the president's endorsement of the Freedom of Choice Act, and his support for abortion services in health care reform.

"Our position is that nothing less than the abortion language from the 1984 Mexico City population conference will satisfy our concerns," Smith said.

At the 1984 conference, the delegates agreed abortion should not be promoted as a method of family planning.

In his Aug. 25 speech, Gore said, "We believe that abortion should not be a method of family planning."

New language will be placed in the U.N. document to clarify this position, said Gore, who will head the U.S. delegation at Cairo.

In its Sept. 2 issue, The Washington Times reported the United States still plans to support abortion rights language in the document.

The Washington Times also said Bella Abzug, well-known feminist and abortion rights activist, played an instrumental role in shaping the document. Abzug, a former member of Congress, will be a "private-sector adviser" to the delegation, The Washington Times said.

Earlier, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America announced its president, Pamela Maraldo, would be a member of the U.S. delegation. Planned Parenthood is the country's leading provider of abortions.

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Midwestern academic vice president  
accepts position at Hardin-Simmons

Baptist Press  
9/2/94

By Brenda Sanders

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--M. Vernon Davis, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., has been named director of graduate theological education and professor of theology for Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon School of Theology, Abilene, Texas.

Davis will leave Midwestern Dec. 31 and begin his new position at Hardin-Simmons Jan. 1, 1995. At the Texas Baptist school, he will lead a new master of divinity degree program to begin in the fall of 1995.

In a letter of resignation addressed to seminary President Milton Ferguson, Davis stated, "I have not made this decision easily, as I had a deep conviction in coming to Midwestern in 1983 that this would be the place where I would serve the remainder of my active ministry. I find it especially difficult to leave my colleagues with whom I have worked through these more than 11 years."

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However, Davis said of his new responsibilities at Hardin-Simmons: "The opportunity that has come to me is one for which I am deeply grateful and which I approach with a sense of personal excitement. It will enable me to remain within theological education and will challenge the continued use of my experience gained here in academic administration."

Davis joined the seminary faculty in July 1983 as associate professor of Christian theology. In April 1987, he was elected vice president by Midwestern trustees and in April 1991, the board granted him the rank of professor of Christian theology.

Ferguson said Davis and his wife, Bennie Ruth, "are vital components of our Midwestern family. They have affirmed, encouraged and supported students, staff, faculty and alumni in countless helpful ways. ... We shall miss them very, very much."

The president noted Davis has "excelled in the classroom as a teacher and has provided wise and competent leadership as dean of the faculty and vice president for academic affairs. He is greatly appreciated in the churches and highly respected by faculty and administrative colleagues."

Before joining Midwestern's faculty, Davis was a trustee of the seminary from 1979-83 and was pastor of First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va., more than 12 years. He served as president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia from 1981-82 and was chairman of the Virginia Baptist General Board and its executive committee, budget committee and religious liberty committee. From 1980-83, Davis was a trustee of The Religious Herald, newsjournal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and a member of the executive board for SBC Today (now Baptists Today), 1983-86.

Also a musician, Davis composed the hymn "Lord, Who Across the Ages" which was included in the 1991 Baptist Hymnal.

Davis is a 1955 graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, who earned the bachelor of divinity degree in 1958 and the doctor of theology degree in 1964 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

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John Howell named interim dean  
at Midwestern Baptist Seminary

Baptist Press  
9/2/94

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--John C. Howell, professor of Christian ethics since 1960 at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will serve as interim vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, effective Jan. 1, 1995.

This appointment was made Sept. 1 by seminary President Milton Ferguson after the announced resignation of M. Vernon Davis, academic vice president since 1987 and a member of the faculty since 1983. Davis has been named director of graduate theological education and professor of theology for the Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, effective Jan. 1, 1995.

Howell previously served the Kansas City-based institution as academic dean from 1976-1982. The second person to hold that position at Midwestern, he helped to establish the role of the dean there.

He returned to the faculty as full-time professor of Christian ethics in 1982 when he desired to do more teaching and writing than the administrative role of the dean would allow.

A recognized authority among Southern Baptists in the area of family life ministry, Howell has traveled extensively, conducting numerous conferences on a wide variety of family ministry topics.

From 1963-75, he was a counselor for the Midwest Christian Counseling Center in Kansas City and since 1982 he has had a private counseling practice.

Howell is the author of eight books and numerous articles published in denominational periodicals.

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He holds degrees from Stetson University, Deland, Fla.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

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**Baptist flock takes aim  
at drug dealers, users**

**By Bob Warren**

**Baptist Press  
9/2/94**

KENNER, La. (BP)--Two o'clock on a dreary Saturday afternoon. The drug dealers and users have begun their ritual, buying and selling little white rocks of cocaine outside what looks like an abandoned apartment on Dartmouth Place in Kenner, La.

It's slow death in a package the size of a piece of gravel. But the pushers don't care, and their commerce booms.

Until the crew from New Hope Community Church busts up the place.

Bibles in hand, they descend, bold as lions, gentle as lambs, confronting dealers and showering them with the kind of care that's bad for trade.

New Hope's isn't the only drug ministry around, but its members are perhaps the most aggressive. There is tough talk, soothing talk, verses from the Good Book.

"Please stop selling, man," Pam Winston implores one young trader inside the apartment. "This isn't a life, man. This is a death. You're dead out here."

The brutal and obscene graffiti scribbled on the walls. The piles of trash. The overpowering smell of urine. None of it is lost on Winston, a New Hope member who likens the place to the "gates of hell."

"I know, sister, I know," the young man finally replies, climbing into the front seat of a friend's car to get away from her urgings to find Jesus. Winston was undaunted by his flight.

"At least he knows we're here if he wants help," she said. "God says love everybody -- and that means love the addict and the crack man, too."

Winston spent enough time on the other side to know. She was a junkie, a loser, a zombie. She finally found a solace in God she couldn't find in a string of detox centers.

For Winston, and several others in north Kenner's New Hope Community Church, a foray into the netherworld of crack cocaine is powerful medicine. They lived this life once, loved it, almost let it consume them body, then soul.

To talk to the addict, to the dealer, to stare them in the eye, not blinking. They say this is an affirmation of a sober life committed to Christ.

"It won't ever be easy," New Hope pastor Mark Mitchell says of the 30 or so recovering addicts in the church's flock of 300. "That rock of crack is powerful. It destroys people like the devil, and like the devil it doesn't want to let you go."

The 3-year-old church occupies a renovated three-plex, ironically a former crack house, off Gadsden Street near Veterans Memorial Boulevard. The church's sponsor, Williams Boulevard Baptist Church, created New Hope as a way to reach a community in need. The drug ministry is an outgrowth of the church.

Bars protect the windows, and a cage protects the air conditioning unit out back because the thieves will steal anything, even cool air from the house of the Lord. A beat-up van sits in the driveway -- its odometer past the 100,000-mile mark a few times over -- and on Sundays it delivers the flock on countless trips into the neighborhood.

Inside, wooden pews occupy the bottom floor, bathed in the colored light from the stained glass windows on sunny days. Crosses of blue against a backdrop of yellow. It makes the place feel like a church.

"It's humble," Mitchell says.

But New Hope has big dreams.

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Its flock dreams of a new building on the open lot next door. They dream of building a drug rehabilitation center, staffing it with professionals and giving addicts a place to stay while they try to clean up their acts. They dream of streets without pushers and users, where people don't steal and turn tricks for their next blast of the crack pipe.

"Kenner needs a place where people can go and get treatment," Mitchell says. "The people need hope."

In the two years New Hope has sought to reach the user, only a handful of the former addicts it has brought into the fold have backslid, Mitchell says.

Several professionals from local drug rehab centers say it's hard to gauge the success of programs such as New Hope's. Attacking addiction as a spiritual problem is fine, but for many it must be treated as a medical problem as well, they say.

Mitchell says the church doesn't seek to replace medical rehab. Indeed it often refers addicts in need to detox centers. But Mitchell and other members say the healing spirit is vital to rescuing the individual.

New Hope's program is based on the Bible, informal group therapy sessions and a support network of church members. Upstairs, in one of the church's converted bedrooms, recovering users meet three times a week to discuss their triumphs and tribulations, to tell God their pain.

There are stories of frustration, despair, anger and hope. They are people like Frank Wells, a dealer who became his own best customer. Or Elizabeth Dedeaux, once so weary of street life that she pleaded with a judge not to let her out of prison.

Jeff is attending his first session. It is a Wednesday night, a hot and sticky mess of a night that forces the windows open, bringing into the meeting the sounds of the streets below. He's tired and nervous and isn't sure he wants his last name in print.

"I don't want to live my 39th year like I lived my 38th," he says. "I been shot, stabbed, locked up. I don't want to pick up again. But I'm scared I will." Across the table, tears stream down Nora Oliver's face.

"I just feel like I'm up against everything," she says, her voice a pained whisper. "Sometimes I find myself losing hope. That's all. I'm just depressed." Dedeaux understands.

"You just got to hang on, baby," she says. "Like we always say, 'Don't call me after you get loaded. Call me before you get loaded and let's talk.'"

Outside the room, Vincent Thompson, a church deacon and a former addict, sums up the addict's life: "Every day will be a struggle. Every day will be a battle."

Walking away from the crack house on that dreary, wet Saturday afternoon, Winston feels good about the day, about this moment of her life. Living by the addicts' creed -- one clean day at a time -- has been difficult for her lately. The days turned into hours, and finally, into minutes.

"I watched that clock tick from minute to minute," she says. "I promised myself I'd stay clean for another minute. Then another minute. Then another minute."

Half a block away, on Duke Drive, the witnesses from the church have formed a circle in a driveway and are thanking God for the day. Mitchell's voice booms from its center.

"The seeds have been planted, oh, Lord."

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Warren is a writer for The Times-Picayune, New Orleans. Reprinted by permission of the Times-Picayune Publishing Corp.

In retirement, T.W. Hunt intends  
to continue addressing the church By John Loudat

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--T.W. Hunt, Baptist Sunday School Board prayer specialist since 1987, will retire Oct. 1. He and his wife, Laverne, will move to Houston, where their daughter and her family live. With a big smile on his face, he tells how much he is looking forward to living in the same city as his six grandchildren -- who range in age from 16 years to seven months.

Nevertheless, he plans to continue traveling extensively, sharing the message God gave him 20 years ago. On average, Hunt says, he is away from home speaking 200 days a year.

While that may not sound like much of a retirement, Hunt responds, "I believe very strongly we're in the last days. I really feel like the time is short."

Hunt, formerly professor of music and missions for 24 years at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, talked with the Baptist New Mexican during the Baptist Convention of New Mexico Regional Mind of Christ Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center Aug. 26-27.

Hunt recounts that when he was only a boy -- about 10 years old -- he began having "very vivid dreams" about the second coming of Jesus, which convinced him Christ would return very soon. He says he has always had a deep yearning for the return of Christ, one which he wants others to have, as well.

Calling attention to Revelation 19:7, which mentions that Christ's bride (the church) will make herself ready for his return, Hunt notes, "The bride isn't making herself ready." There is too much sin in the church, he says.

Hunt believes the message God has given him is a message the bride of Christ can use to make herself ready.

In 1970 Hunt became intrigued by the idea it might be possible to have the mind of Christ, which the Apostle Paul describes in Philippians 2:5-11. Paul told the Philippians, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (v. 5). Hunt embarked on what turned into a five-year study of the subject. As far as he was concerned at the time, Hunt says, the study was for his own edification.

Nineteen notebooks later, however, Hunt was asked to substitute teach for a few weeks in a weekly Bible class in Fort Worth. He shared what God had taught him about the mind of Christ, and God used it to dramatically impact the lives of many of the students.

There was a woman in the class from a church in nearby Belton, Texas, who asked him if he would be willing to teach it in her church.

Hunt admitted to being perplexed that God would lead him into this kind of "preaching" ministry, since he considered himself a layman, not a speaker. God answered him, "You have practiced my Lordship. Lordship isn't just for you, it's for everybody. I'm not the Lord of my church. They're not honoring me. I want you to tell my people I am Lord."

Since that time, God has kept opening doors, providing Hunt with opportunities to share his message far and wide.

Hunt says he expects a revival of the church before Christ returns, but he doesn't believe it will make much of an impact outside the church, unlike many previous spiritual awakenings. He says the Bible describes the increase of evil in the world prior to the second coming. With a revival inside the church and the growth of evil outside, Hunt expects "a real separation" between the believing and unbelieving worlds.

Hunt's material on the mind of Christ has been published as "The Mind of Christ" LIFE Course, released earlier this summer. He currently is working on a book by the same title, scheduled for release during the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Hunt said he was especially looking forward to an opportunity to return to Southwestern Seminary Sept. 6 to lead the seminary faculty and students in a special week of prayer in preparation for the campus revival the following week.

The new seminary president, Ken Hemphill, prior to his election, said his first priority would be to call the seminary to prayer. Hunt said he couldn't remember such an emphasis prior to the campus revival during the 24 years he was a professor at the institution.

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Golden Gate president underscores biblical over 'secular' approaches

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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--In shaping Christian leaders, seminaries must provide educational and ministry experiences that always point to biblical ideals, said seminary President William O. Crews.

"We will fall short in our assignment if our primary leadership and ministry model is anyone other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself," said William O. Crews, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, during the Mill Valley, Calif., school's fall convocation Sept. 1.

Golden Gate Seminary is one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and the only SBC agency in the West.

Noting there may be methods outside the church that merit consideration, Crews said, "We should never advocate the imposition of sociological or secular management systems or styles into the leadership of a local church or ministry."

Golden Gate's emphasis on leadership development advocates training for more than just leaders of "mega-churches" and "selected significant" ministries, he said.

"I am convinced that any ministry for God is significant and deserves an effective leader," Crews said. "While we will do our part as a place for learning and development, it will always rest with God and the individual as to whether that leadership is effective."

Reviewing the previous academic year, Crews noted Golden Gate accomplishments, including increased student enrollment, a completely revised master of divinity curriculum, key faculty additions, celebration of its 50th anniversary and a strong relationship with the board of trustees.

Crews noted he measures Golden Gate's achievements against "six guiding principles:" doctrinal integrity, relevant curriculum and programs, strong partnerships with local churches, expansion of teaching sites in the West, greater dependence upon endowment support, and emphasis upon cultural and ethnic diversity.

Crews also looked ahead to the seminary's new academic year, noting goals include a "21st-century classroom" on all campuses, a strong continuing education program, increases in student recruitment, launching at least one new campus in the West, a stronger system of student outcomes assessment, and relocation of the Northwest (Portland, Ore.) campus to accommodate its growth.

"We will accomplish much more as we all share the vision of shaping effective Christian leaders for the churches of tomorrow," he said. "A vision stated by a leader and not shared by the followers will eventually become everyone's nightmare."

Crews acknowledged it may be years before he knows for certain how well the seminary has accomplished its mission: "Effective leadership is not something determined in the short haul. In the meantime, we will continue to evaluate and improve our methods of shaping these Christian leaders who will lead the churches of tomorrow."

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Camp workers' patience  
stretched by hungry bear

By John Loudat

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--Bears are frequent visitors to New Mexico's Inlow Baptist Youth Camp, but one in particular has been more of a nuisance than usual, according to camp manager Pat Harris.

The camp, located east of Albuquerque in the Manzano Mountains, is one of two camps owned and operated by the Baptist Convention of New Mexico. According to Harris' wife, Pam, "Bears at Inlow are normal." They knock trash cans over an average of three times a week during the camping season. We just tell the kids to b car ful." She added, however, "This one's not acting normal."

One evidence of that would be the damage it did to Bernard Dougharty's car Aug. 12. Dougharty is a retired director of missions living in Alamogordo. While he was trying to get some sleep in Elliott Lodge about 11:15 that night, he heard a "banging on metal" sound. No one went to the trouble of checking on the noise at that time. The next morning, Dougharty noticed extensive damage to his Buick.

In the trunk of his car Dougharty had some groceries he was going to use during a two-week stay at nearby Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. The bear, trying to get to the food, ripped off the Buick and dealer's decals, destroyed the passenger-side taillight, partially ripped off the other, left huge dents in the roof and front hood, ripped off a side panel and severely scratched the trunk.

How did Dougharty know it was a bear? The muddy paw prints on top of the entire length of the car gave it away.

Six nights later, at about 2:30 a.m., the Harrises heard some noise in their kitchen. When they went to see what all the commotion was, they were greeted by "a big bear looking in the kitchen window and on his way in."

Harris said it is legal to shoot bears who try to get into one's home. His gun, however, was in another building at the time.

Bears usually are intimidated enough by people that they will forge for food elsewhere, Harris said. During long, dry summers, however, they come to the camp in greater numbers and with greater frequency, usually to dig in trash cans. Campers are told to stay away from the bears when they see them and notify the management. Harris then shoots the unwelcome guests with rubber bullets -- he's shot three this year. If the rubber bullets fail to discourage the bears from visiting, the New Mexico Game and Fish Department will haul them off to another area.

After the bear tried to break into the Harrises' home, state authorities set a trap for a few days. A small bear -- not the troublemaker -- was caught and relocated 12 miles away. The trap was then removed because of several other sightings in the state.

Harris said he is pretty sure the small bear has returned, but the "big bear" hasn't shown its face since the attempted break-in. Harris said, however, that he wouldn't be surprised to see it again in a few weeks, and you can be sure his gun won't be in another building.

**(BP)**

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