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December 1, 1994

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SBC Cooperative Program gifts
dip in November; year ahead

Baptist Press
12/1/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for November fell 3.83 percent below that month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. However, for the year-to-date, receipts were still above the previous year 1.85 percent.

For November 1994, receipts totaled \$10,571,736 compared to November 1993 of \$10,992,852 or a difference of \$421,116. For the two months of the 1994-95 SBC fiscal year, the totals were \$22,276,134 for this year compared to \$21,872,550 last year which is an increase of \$403,583.

Designated gifts for the month surpassed the month for the previous year: \$1,792,440 compared to \$1,764,230 or 1.60 percent. For the fiscal year-to-date, designated giving is up 14.04 percent over last year: \$3,758,661 compared to \$3,296,056.

However, the November CP figure fell below the required SBC program allocation budget monthly total of \$11,378,310 or almost eight percent. For the year-to-date budget, the two months cumulative receipts are slightly more than two percent below the budget, or \$480,487 under.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 1994-95 program allocation budget as well as restricted funds received from state conventions which identify them as Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program challenge goal for the 150th anniversary (1995) of the Southern Baptist Convention is \$150 million which requires average monthly CP receipts of \$12.5 million.

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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 Anni Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

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.

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EDITORS' NOTE: Foreign Mission Board writer Mary E. Speidel and photographer Warren Johnson traveled to Haiti in late November to cover the first team of Southern Baptist volunteers laying the groundwork for a major relief effort sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board and the Brotherhood Commission.

Volunteers build foundation
for Haiti feeding project

By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press
12/1/94

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP)--They worked dawn to dusk inside a walled-in compound, but that didn't insulate Southern Baptist volunteers from Haiti's human suffering.

"If you're sensitive at all you can see the desperation," said David Lyons, a volunteer from Barbourville, Ky. "I don't think Webster has a word that can really describe it. The poverty here is just astounding."

Lyons, dressed in blue coveralls, had just finished a sweaty day installing electrical wiring at the Baptist Convention of Haiti annex, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital.

He and other volunteers spent 10 days in November helping remodel the building, the base of operations for a Southern Baptist feeding project. The project is part of a Haiti relief effort sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission. About 200 volunteers are expected to be involved before it's over.

The first of those volunteers -- from Kentucky, North Carolina and Texas -- built bunks and tables for future volunteers who will live at the convention annex during the project. They also screened windows, roofed a patio, put in floors, made a gate, rewired rooms and built a concrete wall to keep out looters.

Their labors didn't look much like hunger relief work, but will play a big role in feeding hungry Haitians.

"Without our hands, the other hands couldn't work later," said Lyons, retired director of missions for Kentucky's Lynn Camp and North Concord Baptist Associations.

As Lyon talked, some of his fellow volunteers played a game at the table where he sat -- a welcome break from their 12-hour work day.

"I've done a lot of hard work before, but I've never worked this hard in any 10 days in my life," confessed volunteer Harold Moore, 68, a retired steel worker from Ashland, Ky.

But he's not complaining. "I feel like God has given me these talents and if I don't use them, I'm not doing what the Bible says," he said.

Moore, like most of the men on the team, is a veteran of disaster relief work through his state Baptist convention's Brotherhood department. Besides that background, some of the team members have volunteered overseas through the Foreign Mission Board.

Milton Schmidt, the team's cook, has done both. He's a regular disaster relief volunteer with Texas Baptist Men, and recently he cooked for medical volunteers who cared for Rwandan refugees in Goma, Zaire.

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In projects like these, "you really have to be creative to get the job done," said Schmidt, wearing an apron with a jar of hot sauce stuffed in the pocket. "The missionaries say you have to be 'flexible' but that doesn't really cover it. You have to be more than that. You have to be bendable -- pliable."

Mickey Caison prefers the term "fluid."

"You have to be able to flow from one situation into another," explained Caison, national disaster relief director for the Brotherhood Commission.

Another group of volunteers learned that principle quickly when they met Caison Nov. 19 in Port-au-Prince.

They thought they'd be packaging and distributing food to several thousand Haitian families through Haitian Baptist churches. But after arriving, they found they were needed immediately to install a water purification unit, build more tables and patch electrical wiring. The earlier construction team didn't complete all they'd planned because of unexpected delays -- such as flooding caused when Tropical Storm Gordon hit Haiti Nov. 13.

But the newly arrived volunteers -- from Kentucky, California, Colorado, Missouri, Alabama and Georgia -- had the right skills to hit the ground running.

"It seems like it's always that way in disaster relief work -- when there's something that needs to be done, there's somebody there who can do it," said volunteer Jerry Spencer, a firefighter from Robards, Ky.

Spencer, Brotherhood director for Kentucky's Green Valley Baptist Association, has done relief work after several U.S. disasters. But the Haiti assignment was his first overseas relief experience.

"The last place I wanted to come was Haiti," admitted Spencer, who used family savings to fund the trip. "But God said, 'Jerry, I want you to go.' If I ever received a personal call from the Lord, it was for this."

Other volunteers echoed his testimony.

"It's unreal how things have fallen together and worked out," said Benny Rowe, a retired high school principal from Jasper, Ala. "Man has had very little to do with it. God has gotten all of us into this place at this particular time for his cause."

Rowe spent most of his time cooking meals for fellow volunteers. He and his colleagues didn't see much of Haiti outside the walls of the annex building. But what they glimpsed made a lasting impression.

"I really thought I had prepared myself for what I would see in terms of human misery, but it's much worse than I ever imagined," said Rowe.

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(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers Nov. 30 by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutline available on SBCNet News Room.

Volunteers still needed
for Haiti relief effort

Baptist Press
12/1/94

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Urgent needs still exist for volunteers in Southern Baptists' relief effort in Haiti, according to officials at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Also needed are people to help recruit volunteers to work in Haiti Dec. 16-24 and Jan. 27-Feb. 11. Recruiters are welcome -- but not required -- to go to Haiti. They're responsible for filling teams of 10 members each.

For more information call the Brotherhood Commission toll-free at (800) 280-1891, or call (901) 722-3787. Financial contributions for the projects may be sent to the human needs department of the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va., 23230-0767 or to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn., 38104.

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Baptist relief in Haiti:
more than a 'handout'

By Mary E. Speidel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP)--Joseph Ilne Elysee's office hasn't been the same since Southern Baptist volunteers arrived Nov. 9.

The sound of a power saw buzzing drifts through his window, along with the thud of a hammer pounding nails -- not to mention the drone of a generator when the power goes off.

But Ilne, associate secretary of the Baptist Convention of Haiti, doesn't seem bothered by all the noise. He knows the volunteers living and working at the convention's annex in Port-au-Prince came to help.

"I appreciate them," he said, while some of volunteers marched in and out of the annex building carrying building materials and supplies.

The volunteers staff a Baptist feeding project sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission. It's the first phase of a relief effort designed to ease the pain of suffering Haitians over the next few months. At least 200 volunteers will work in the projects, which later will include water well repair and medical clinics.

"There's no way possible for us to meet all the needs that exist here, but we saw this as the best way to help the most people," said Peggy Rutledge, Foreign Mission Board missionary in Haiti.

The volunteers' work will complement what Rutledge, from Glendale, Calif., and other mission workers have been doing for years to meet human needs in Haiti. Rutledge and her husband, Mark, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., and journeyman Todd Lowe, from Belton-Honea Path, S.C., operate an agricultural project that helps Haitian farmers help themselves.

International Service Corps workers Ed and Mary Brentham, from Belton, Texas, work with a water well-drilling project that provides clean water for thousands of Haitian families. New missionaries Jim and Grace Ziler, from Avilla and New Haven, Mo., respectively, will help in that work when they arrive in January. They're temporarily working with Haitians living in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

Water well repair is the most significant task the volunteers will handle, Rutledge believes.

"There are many other groups feeding people and providing medical care here. But there aren't a lot of people out there fixing wells," she said.

"You have to look at the nature of water. Food includes agriculture and imports. During the embargo we had some continuing agriculture going on. And now that the embargo's been lifted, food is being imported, too. But where are you going to import water from? Where are you going to grow water?"

Volunteers will repair hand pumps on more than 500 of the Baptist convention's 800 water wells, Peggy Rutledge said. Those repairs weren't possible for the past several years because of political turmoil and economic sanctions against Haiti. The sanctions, lifted when President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned to power Oct. 15, meant the needed parts weren't shipped in. They also limited fuel for traveling around the country to make the repairs.

Volunteers also will help restart the entire water project, which was put on hold late last year because of the embargo. That effort won't start until early 1995, relief planners predict.

Meanwhile, feeding efforts are getting under way in Port-au-Prince at the Baptist convention annex. Volunteers are stuffing "family-size" bags with staples such as rice, beans and cooking oil. An evangelistic tract is included inside each package. The food is being distributed through Baptist churches to several thousand needy families selected by Haitian Baptists.

"That's a drop in the bucket," acknowledged Mark Rutledge. He noted many as 5.5 million Haitians a day don't get enough to eat, according to USAID reports.

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The lifting of the embargo is improving things in Haiti, "but people still need jobs," his wife added. "There's plenty of food in the country, but people need money to buy it. A job solves that with dignity and with a future. A handout lasts until tomorrow and then it's gone."

But Baptist relief efforts in Haiti are meant to be more than a handout; they offer people hope in Jesus Christ. And that's the answer to what's hurt Haiti, Ilne believes.

"Pray that Haitians will love their own country and love themselves," he urged. "What has crushed Haiti is that there hasn't been unity and love for each other. Everyone sees himself and not the country as a whole. You can see that Haiti isn't developed. That's what's done it."

But when Haitians accept Jesus Christ as Savior, that helps to change the whole country, Ilne believes. "As more people become Christians, Haiti will be able to advance," he said.

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(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers Nov. 30 by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutline available on SBCNet News Room.

ANALYSIS:

Gambling opposition, CP support, local issues dominate state annual meetings

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
12/1/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The annual meetings of 34 state conventions and fellowships revealed a Baptist distinctive -- diversity -- but opposition to gambling and support of cooperative efforts including the Cooperative Program were common threads.

However, many local issues also garnered the time of messengers from Florida to the Northwest, from Minnesota/Wisconsin to Texas. From a unique re-organization of the Arizona convention to allowing out-of-state trustees for the three Tennessee Baptist colleges, the annual meetings were mostly two to three-day meetings packed with preaching, music, reports and business.

One of the most interesting, if not potentially volatile, decisions was a mandate by North Carolina messengers to fund Baptist students attending N.C. Baptist colleges/universities "equal to the amount sent to the SBC for theological education." Also, Texas messengers redefined the Cooperative Program for that state, laypersons were elected presidents in five conventions, opposition to racism was noted by five and opposition to abortion surfaced in eight.

This analysis of the 34 conventions' annual meetings comes from reports filed with Baptist Press. Four other conventions had not filed reports as of Nov. 30.

In contrast with last year, however, President Clinton was mentioned by name only in Indiana where Congress and Clinton were exhorted to "heed the Contract with America (a highly publicized agenda of a number of prominent Republican members of Congress) lest a lack of confidence become firmly entrenched." The resolution asked those in the House and Senate to frame the legislation "within the clear precepts of the Word of God."

Support for Southern Baptists' mission support channel, the Cooperative Program, was voiced in resolutions and motions in eight conventions. Missouri voted to do a study to consider raising each year the state's CP percentage to SBC causes and Tennessee used drama to begin each session to affirm its support.

Ten conventions raised, most by small amounts, their percentages of CP gifts channeled to the SBC while Florida slightly decreased its SBC percentage. Voting to raise the SBC percentage: District of Columbia, Arkansas, Dakotas, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, Penn/South Jersey, West Virginia and Wyoming.

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In Texas, the SBC portion of the CP budget remains the same but the definition of the Cooperative Program was changed. Churches may elect not to send their national mission gifts to the SBC but rather to other national organizations, like the rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, under the enlarged definition.

Virginia continues its three track world mission giving system for churches, one of which is a traditional SBC/state plan, but added a new wrinkle for state messenger representation from churches. The new method bases representation on gifts to state causes alone, instead of contributions to state, national and international ministries which is a traditional pattern for state conventions.

Somewhat like Virginia, North Carolina adopted three giving plans: one a traditional state-SBC, a mixed state/SBC/local missions-education, and a plan which provides 10 percent to the CBF and none to the SBC. All the gifts will be considered traditional Cooperative Program.

Another North Carolina action has the potential for a huge change in that portion of Cooperative Program contributions sent to the SBC. Citing recent undergraduate programs at two SBC seminaries, messengers directed the state's general board to adopt a plan that would fund Baptist students attending North Carolina Baptist colleges/universities equal to the amount sent to the SBC for theological education. The kicker: the money would come from that portion of the N.C. Cooperative Program which is sent to the SBC.

Statistics given at the annual meeting indicated the SBC subsidizes \$6,000 of the training of theological students at its seminaries while N.C. Baptist students are subsidized at about \$350 per student at North Carolina's six colleges. The N.C. general board will meet in January, charged with implementing what one messenger in opposition called "extraordinarily dangerous" action.

With gaming initiatives on the ballot in November in a number of states, 10 states voiced criticism of gambling efforts. Opposition in various forms was heard at the annual meetings of Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Kansas/Nebraska, Mississippi, New Mexico, Penn/South Jersey, Texas and Wyoming.

Most conventions elected pastors as presidents although Arizona, District of Columbia, Indiana, Nevada and New England elected laypersons. Many observers felt the conventions had less "politics" involved in their elections compared to recent years.

Possibly aided by publicized efforts to ask the 1995 sesquicentennial meeting of the SBC in Atlanta to approve a resolution on racism, five state conventions approved statements concerning racism although California balked at including a confession amendment. Resolutions opposing racism were approved in District of Columbia, California, Illinois, New England and Penn/South Jersey.

Opposition to abortion was cited in eight conventions: Louisiana, Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas/Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming and the Northwest.

Utah-Idaho, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Penn/South Jersey and South Carolina affirmed the 1995 "Here's Hope, Share Jesus Now" national evangelistic campaign. Kansas/Nebraska applauded the Sunday School Board-sponsored True Love Waits campaign which urges abstinence before marriage.

Louisiana messengers elected, for the first time, an African-American as an officer; New Mexico debated the needs of bi-vocational pastors attending the annual meeting; California voted to remove a budget item for Americans United for Separation of Church and State but did a turnabout from last year by accepting messengers from a church with a woman pastor; Tennessee voted to allow its three colleges and an academy to have out-of-state trustees for the first time; and Florida approved a resolution of appreciation for its state paper editor who abruptly resigned following a recent board of directors meeting.

The closing of Baptist book stores in the Northwest, Arizona and Ohio was criticized in those states while Utah-Idaho, Alaska, Arizona, California, Michigan and Montana had chief executive officers either leave or retire.

J.C. Watts: young, black,
Republican, Congressman

By Dave Parker

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--He's young, in a Congress dominated by older men. He's black, from a state that had never before elected a black man to Congress. And he's Republican, in a district that is 70 percent Democratic.

Those are only incidental accomplishments to former University of Oklahoma quarterback J.C. Watts, who gives credit to God for all he has done.

Watts, who has served as minister of youth at Sunnyside Baptist Church in Del City since 1987, said it seems unreal to him that he could be the first black Republican elected to the Congress from the South, even though in 1990 he was the first black elected to a state-wide office, when he became a Corporation Commissioner.

"It is hard for me to imagine, at 37 years of age, to be the first in anything," Watts said. "I never did it to be first, to be a role model or anything. I just hoped that I could do something to add to the debate."

Watts' road to politics has taken a circuitous route. Raised in Eufaula, a town of 2,600 in eastern Oklahoma, he was a high school football star and attended OU. After leading OU to successive Big Eight and Orange Bowl championships in 1980 and 1981 -- chosen Orange Bowl player of the game both times -- he played football in the Canadian Football League for five years, at Ottawa and Toronto.

After the 1986 season, he was offered a "six-figure contract," he said, but by that time he felt God leading him in a different direction. Three weeks after deciding to retire from football, Sunnyside pastor John Lucas called to offer him the youth minister position.

"I thought, 'No, Lord, not youth work!'" Watts recalled. But he accepted and began "an eight-year love affair" with the church.

Lucas died in 1990, and was succeeded as pastor by Jerry Don Abernathy.

In 1989, Watts ventured into politics when he decided to run for the post held by Democrat Jim Townsend on the Corporation Commission, Oklahoma's utility regulatory authority.

Watts, who had just changed from Democrat to Republican, was given little hope of winning on the three-person commission, due to his lack of political experience, his party affiliation, the image of the "dumb jock" and the fact no black had ever even been nominated for a statewide office.

"I had done some oil and gas work, and felt like I could do the job, so I threw my hat in the ring," Watts said.

He ended up winning the post by nine percentage points in a three-man race, but his entire four years have been overshadowed by an investigation of improprieties at the commission by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On Nov. 30, a former Corporation Commissioner and an attorney were both convicted in the scandal.

Watts said the negative publicity has been hard.

"There is no question it has been hard, when you see your name bandied about," Watts said, but he noted that of the hundreds of people testifying before two grand juries, with five U.S. attorneys investigating, "I never went to a grand jury; I have never been deposed. My biggest mistake was getting elected to the commission when there was an investigation going on."

During the 1992 presidential campaign, Watts spoke at the Republican National Convention for President George Bush. Then, he decided to run for Congress in 1994, and won a hard-fought battle.

In spite of all the negative publicity, though, Watts said the church has remained supportive.

"This has been a very humbling experience," Watts said. "The church, the youth and Jerry Don have never seen me as a Corporation Commissioner, as a football player at OU or as a Congressman; they have seen me as a brother in Christ who is their youth minister.

"I would hate to go through all this and not have a loving church family."

The hardest part about moving to Washington will be leaving his church family, he said.

When he became a Republican in 1988, Watts said he did so because he felt the Democratic party no longer represented his views on the economy and on social issues such as abortion and homosexuality.

"My principles and values were instilled in me by J.C. 'Buddy' Watts Sr. and Helen Watts when I was growing up in Eufaula," he said. "I didn't change my values. I think the Democratic leadership, over the past 20 years, has left my values."

Watts said he believes values transcend party lines, especially in Oklahoma which is strongly conservative but overwhelmingly Democratic.

"You get out in the state of Oklahoma and you get beyond labels," he said. "Most people have the same values, whether they are Democratic or Republican."

Watts equally rejects the idea that because he has changed parties he has left the black community behind, a community that is largely Democratic.

"I don't want to be a black leader; I don't want to be a white leader; I don't want to be an Hispanic leader; I want to be a leader, period," he said. "I don't buy into that idea that because I am black I should be Democratic."

"God gave me a mind to think and choose for myself. Hopefully, I would base my decisions on merit, not on the color of my skin."

One issue that has raised some concerns in the black community is plans to reform government assistance programs. Watts said they need to be reformed.

"Reform is too gentle a word," he said. "For the last 30 years we've measured our compassion by how many people we have on food stamps and public housing. We should measure our compassion by how few people we have on food stamps and public housing."

"We should teach men how to fish instead of giving them fish. We need to teach people to use their God-given abilities."

In America, he said the only way to get ahead is through savings and investment, yet assistance programs penalize people for saving and investment.

"We need to encourage families instead of discourage them," he said. "And we have a real opportunity to see prayer in our public schools."

"I think our teachers and schools need to operate without the fear of someone taking them to the Supreme Court."

Some observers are saying Republicans have two years to make changes or they will be turned out of office like Democrats were in 1994. Watts said that does not worry him.

"The eyes of the nation are going to be upon us for the next two years," he said. "I think we have a chance to make some big changes. I think the American people are wanting change."

If changes are not made, and another power shift occurs, Watts said "God is going to grow me wherever he plants me. I'll be happy wherever I am planted."

Watts and his wife Frankie have five children: Keshia, 18; Jerrell, 15; Jennifer, 10; Julia, 5, and J.C. III "Trey", 3.

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Visitors usually the majority
at Maranatha church in Plains

By John D. Pierce

Baptist Press
12/1/94

PLAINS, Ga. (BP)--Maranatha Church is typical of many Baptist churches across Georgia. The simple, but attractive brick building with a shining white steeple is nestled among pecan trees just off the rural road. The pastor is the only employee, with volunteers from the congregation taking turns at cleaning the building, mowing the lawn, and supplying flowers for the sanctuary each week.

Like many churches the congregation is rather small with a membership around 130. Sunday worship involves prayer, hymn singing, and preaching. Usually, visitors account for a vast majority of the Sunday morning crowd. It is at this point that Maranatha is no longer typical!

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During the 1993-94 church year Maranatha registered 3,661 visitors, the most in its 17-year history. Travelers from across the country, as well as many international guests, have visited the small, rural church to hear Jimmy Carter teach his adult Sunday school class. Hugh Carter, the former president's cousin, uses a sign in his antique store window to keep the public informed of President Carter's schedule. Most Sundays, he is there. And so are the visitors!

People come to the church primarily, if not exclusively, to see someone famous. Some have never been in a church before. Pastor Dan Ariail reports many visitors, upon leaving worship, will state: "I have seen many Christian churches, but this is the first time I have ever been inside one." Therefore, the church has the unique opportunity to minister to the curious hordes of people who visit for the first time. "It is my responsibility," says Ariail, "to give them more than they came for."

Ariail has the challenging task of preaching to a local congregation of faithful Christians, as well as visitors from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. It is a responsibility he takes seriously as he prayerfully prepares his weekly sermon.

"In preaching, I try to be positive," says Ariail, "I never run down other Baptists or denominations." He is aware such negativism is often a hindrance to those who otherwise might be open to the gospel. Ariail has served the Plains congregation for 12 years and currently is negotiating with publishers who are interested in his pastoral perspectives on his best known member.

Maranatha's ministry of hospitality has been well received by many of the curious guests who have ventured out to the little church on the edge of town. A young Muslim man, born in Afghanistan found faith in Christ and was baptized. He was particularly open to the message when the pastor made reference to the Islamic faith without using disparaging words.

A Japanese student, studying at Georgia Southwestern College in nearby Americus, found the worship service and warm fellowship attractive. She later wrote to the pastor telling of her decision to become a Christian and of her desire to share her new found faith with her family back in Japan.

An awareness that many visitors are unfamiliar with Baptist traditions has prompted the church to plan services carefully. "Adding the page number for the Scripture passage in the pew Bible has been helpful," the pastor says. "We also print the words to the Lord's Prayer and the page number for the Doxology," he added. "I want to plug them into worship," says Ariail, who prepares the services with the diverse visitors in mind.

Maranatha's sensitive outreach has resulted in gaining members who originate from Vietnam, Taiwan, Afghanistan, and India. This openness has also been attractive to other residents.

The congregation has embraced the opportunity to live out the words of Scripture: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2 NASB)

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**Naylor earns award
in Bangalore, India**

**Baptist Press
12/1/94**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Rebekah Naylor was expected to receive a community service award from the downtown Rotary Club of Bangalore, India, Dec. 2. As the lone resident Southern Baptist missionary in a nation of over 900 million people, she is a surgeon, hospital administrator, fund-raiser, architect, contractor and counselor for the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India.

The president of the downtown Rotary Club recently visited Naylor at the hospital to inform her she was to be the community service award recipient. He said, "Any American doctor who has been serving in India for 20 years needs to receive a lot of commendation."

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The announcement of Naylor's selection for a Rotary Community Service Award came a month and a half after Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved the naming of an endowment program after her. The Rebekah Naylor Chair of Missions will be sustained by earnings from financial gifts, and the principal of it must reach \$1 million to activate the chair to fund research and other academic activity.

A graduate of Baylor University, Vanderbilt University and Southwestern Medical School in the United States, Naylor's missionary work encompasses much more than surgery. The practical side of her service includes administrative duties, training doctors and nurses, the spiritual ministry of the hospital, planning and supervising construction of facilities, starting new churches and discipling new Christians. In her spare time, she directs a choir for doctors and nurses, presents concerts and plays the piano.

The 143-bed Bangalore Baptist Hospital treats almost 7,000 in-patients and 70,000 out-patients annually. Almost 2,000 operations are performed and 1,200 babies are delivered every year.

Almost single-handedly, Naylor raised funds for a \$400,000 private patient wing and the expansion of the pharmacy at Bangalore Baptist Hospital. Her dream of a nursing school facility is close to becoming reality as the hospital nears a fund-raising goal of over \$250,000.

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South Carolina students become
'lamplighters' to local churches By Chip Alford

Baptist Press
12/1/94

GREENWOOD, S.C. (BP)--It's been more than eight years since a caring pastor walked into the Baptist Student Center at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., and began telling the story of his rural church and its needs.

BSU director Scott Smith had received requests from area pastors before, but Lloyd Brunson from nearby First Damascus Baptist was looking for something different.

"He shared that his church wasn't interested in a 'one-shot' weekend or student-led revival service; he wanted more of a commitment from our students," Smith recalled. "It had occurred to me when our BSU ministry team went into churches that we left after the worship service without building long-term relationships. So, I invited Rev. Brunson to meet with our BSU council and they began to dream about a year-long ministry."

That dream eventually evolved into "Lamplighters," a program that annually involves dozens of Lander BSU members in local church ministry. Participants commit to work one Sunday per month with the same church for one year, Smith said, adding only churches with one full-time staff member can apply.

"We wanted to help our smaller churches and be of encouragement to those pastors who don't have the support of other full-time staff members," Smith explained. "It's really a win-win situation, because the churches get some help with ministry needs and our students get to try out their ministry skills and develop close relationships with church members."

The name "Lamplighters," Smith explained, was derived from an often-quoted story about the famous 19th Century English Baptist preacher Charles H. Spurgeon. According to the story, Spurgeon and a friend were walking up a hill one day when they noticed a lamplighter some distance ahead of them. He lit lamp after lamp before disappearing over the top of the hill. Turning to his friend, Spurgeon said: "I hope my life will be just like that. I should like to think that when I've gone over the brow of the hill I shall leave lights shining behind me."

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"That's what our students try to do in local churches, leave lights shining behind them," Smith said. "A big reason for the program's success," he added, "is that the same churches see the same students each month, so a strong relationship is forged over time. And these churches do so much for our students by modeling what the Christian church should be."

Lamplighters are involved in a variety of ministries from leading worship services and teaching Sunday school classes to planning senior adult banquets and youth lock-ins. They've also shared their faith, conducted community surveys, held "fifth-quarter" after-the-game fellowships for youth, cleaned church carpets and painted church buildings.

Explaining the "mechanics" of the program, Smith said Lamplighter team leaders are elected at the end of each school year along with other BSU officers. Interested churches apply for the program during the summer months and teams of student Lamplighters are formed during the first few weeks of the fall.

Lamplighter teams then meet every other week for Bible study, prayer and planning their church assignment. Each participating church stays with the program for two years, though they get a new student team each year.

This year, the Lander BSU has five Lamplighter teams with 60 student participants. In the program's eight-year history, more than 350 students have served in more than a third of the Baptist churches in the Abbeville Baptist Association which covers a tri-county area in South Carolina's Piedmont region. Many of those churches have been staffed by bivocational pastors.

While Smith supervises the program, he maintains "the students pull it off themselves. It's their ministry."

"This is not a ready made program where we go to a church and say, 'This is what we can do for you.' We ask a church what its needs are and say, 'Whatever you need, we'll do.'"

Brunson, whose church benefitted from four years in the Lamplighter program, agrees with Smith's assessment. In fact, he doesn't even like to refer to the ministry as a "program."

"It's really an experience, a cooperative kind of thing," he said. "These energetic young kids come in here and they really become a part of the church family. I've been blessed as a pastor, too, because they've really encouraged me to grow spiritually."

Jim Ridgeway, bivocational pastor of Bold Spring Baptist Church in nearby Callison, is also a vocal Lamplighters supporter.

"These students have really ministered to our folks. They've done everything from taking charge of an entire worship service to leading an open discussion on the New Age Movement.

"They've helped us reach some young people in our community, too," Ridgeway said. "When they first came here we only had a handful; now we have a good-sized youth group."

Amy Timms, president of the Lander BSU and an active Lamplighter, said the program "is one of the most worthwhile ministries of our BSU," adding college students definitely get back more than they give.

"These people just cater to college students," she said. "They take us into their homes and feed us home-cooked meals. They remember us by name. It's really a family atmosphere."

"We've had many students go on to seminary after being involved in Lamplighters," added Timms, a senior nursing student who is considering future involvement in medical missions.

Scott Allen, a consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry, said Lamplighters is an excellent example of how a partnership between a BSU and local church can benefit both organizations.

"They're both working toward the same goal, leading people to Christ and developing them as believers. Working together can only enhance their efforts," he said.

The Lamplighters program will be discussed in a special seminar led by Smith at "Mission 95," a nationwide student missions conference planned Dec. 27-31 in Louisville, Ky. Registration information is available by calling (817) 581-4711.

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(BP) photos (verticals) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press. Photos also are posted in the SBCNet News Room.

FamilyNet television station
promotes Christian values

By C.C. Risenhoover

Baptist Press
12/1/94

NASHVILLE, Ark. (BP)--When Glen Power decided television was one of the best ways of spreading the gospel, it didn't take him long to put together a group of like-minded people. That's how Nashville, Ark. -- population about 4,600 -- came to have its own Christian TV station.

Quick to downplay his role in putting together the FamilyNet affiliate, Power said the idea for the station was initiated by Ethylene Westbrook, a member of the town's First Assembly of God Church.

"She went to the trouble of getting a 5013C permit," he said, "and discussed her vision of a Christian TV station for Nashville with me."

That first permit, unfortunately, was lost in 1991 before the project could be put together. By then, however, Power was hooked on the idea. And those who know him well say Power is tenacious when it comes to getting things done.

"It became a challenge," he admitted, "one that resulted in \$13,000 in legal fees. I looked around town and put together a committee of 10 people, all of whom shared the dream. We started meeting and waiting for the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) to open a window."

The window of opportunity opened April 12, 1994 and the committee put together a package for two channels on a grant list. But Power and his cohorts had not been content to wait. They actually started telecasting on cable in 1992.

Those telecasts include the services of five local congregations -- First Baptist Church, First Assembly of God Church, Ridgeway Baptist Church, Free Christian Zion Church and Sunset Church of Christ. Since KNLB-TV (Channel 16) is on 24 hours a day, each service is telecast more than once in various time slots throughout the week.

"Being a FamilyNet affiliate is a real asset," said Power, "because the network gives us access to 24 hours a day of family values programming. FamilyNet requires that we carry certain programs, but these are Christian family values programs that we would carry anyway. We can preempt other FamilyNet programs to carry our own local programs."

KNLB-TV, he said, is committed to telecasting all sorts of local events, especially the activities of Nashville's public schools. These include Honor Society and Student Council meetings; football, basketball and baseball games; and track meets. In the summer the station even telecasts segments of Little League baseball games.

"We try to televise all of the big community events," said Power. "We do parades, banquets, festivals, runs. There's really not much in the way of community activities that we don't cover. We're sort of a television version of a weekly newspaper."

Whether telecasting a piano recital, the 4-H Club in an orchard learning about growing peaches, or an outdoor gospel songfest, the underlying reason for KNLB-TV's existence, Power said, is Christian ministry.

One of the more amazing aspects of the station is it operates with 27 volunteers and no paid staff. All 27 do something for the station each week.

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"We're not a commercial operation," said Power, "which is one of the reasons we have such tremendous support from our local paper and radio stations. Louie Graves, editor of The Nashville News is one of our staunchest supporters. And Rick Castleberry, owner of KNAS-FM and KBHC-AM, is a host for some of our programs.

"The TV station is not a revenue producer because that's not our focus. We're not in this for money. For us, it's strictly a ministry."

In addition to Power, the television station board includes Jerry Jacobs, president of First National Bank and a deacon in First Baptist Church; David Blase, pastor of First Baptist Church, and his wife, Anna; S.A. Westbrook, a lumberman and member of First Assembly of God Church; Nobie Williams, a Methodist who is manager of the Chamber of Commerce; nursing home owner Willie Benson, who is also general pastor of the Free Christian Zion Church of Christ; First Baptist Church member Kim Millwood, a homemaker with a masters in education whose husband owns a trucking company; First Assembly of God Church member Tony Busby, owner of Nashville Funeral Home; Sunset Church of Christ member Danny Howard, superintendent of schools; and Ronny Woods, a deacon in Immanuel Baptist Church and partner in an accounting firm.

"Glen (Power) is the center of the whole thing," said Woods. "Without him our TV station wouldn't exist. He's a tremendous sales person and a tremendous Christian. He knows everyone around here and has great organizational ability."

Power lives only three blocks from where he was born in 1934. He has a degree in psychology from the University of Hawaii, but also attended Texarkana College, the University of Arkansas and Ouachita Baptist University. Early on, he aspired to be a physician.

"There's been a Power at Ouachita Baptist every year since 1928," he said.

The oldest of five children, Power served with the 101st Airborne in Korea. He later managed a Woolworth store in Tulsa, Okla., before returning to his native Nashville.

The challenge of starting and operating a Christian TV station probably doesn't seem as great as some of the others Power has faced in his life. When his wife died at 35, he was left with four young children to raise. Two years later he married a widow with two children, the daughter of the Baptist pastor who baptized him when he was 16.

A workaholic, Power was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for 32 years. He sold insurance at night and became a member of the "million dollar club" in 1971, selling \$5,000 and \$10,000 policies. Power said the father of Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, got him into the insurance business.

He is an active member of First Baptist Church, is a former national officer of the Jaycees and is a Rotarian. In 1994 he rotated off the executive board of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, where he served as chairman of the finance committee.

Power said, "We don't ask anyone to help who doesn't look at KNLB-TV as a ministry. Ronny (Woods) for example, is a serious Christian and he takes everything the station does seriously. He has an accounting mind and a spiritual background. But everyone on our board is a serious Christian. And when our board says, 'Let's go,' we don't look back. We all take an aggressive, positive approach to spreading the gospel."

Power said his vision is to use community events to enhance the spread of the gospel.

Woods said KNLB-TV is proving that daily life is newsworthy.

"The interest level in the programs we broadcast is fantastic," he said, "whether we're promoting an organization like Alcoholics Anonymous or showing a church service at three o'clock in the morning."

A well-equipped studio is in KNLB's future. John and Ruth Wilson, members of First Baptist Church, have provided 200-feet of highway frontage on which to build it.

"It's going to be first-class," said Power. "We're acquiring the best equipment available."

Currently local "talk show" type programs are videotaped in an office with no special lighting, but Power said only a trained eye could tell the difference between KNLB-TV produced programs and those shown on the network.

"That's because of the content," he said. "Sometimes people get so enamored with the technology that they forget about content. Though we want to provide the best quality possible for our viewers, our primary focus is on content. It always will be."

Power's advice to churches or groups who want to set up a low power TV station: Don't buy used equipment.

"You can probably get set up for \$12,000 to \$30,000," he said. "Contrary to what some people might tell you, doing TV doesn't require a degree in rocket science."

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Covenant pastor ministers
beyond walls of church building By C.C. Risenhoover

Baptist Press
12/1/94

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Marvin Donnell is one of those people who didn't surrender to the ministry until late in life, so despite being a grandfather he has the enthusiasm of youth. He is tireless in looking for new ways to reach people for Christ.

It was Donnell's missionary spirit, passion to win the lost and concern for children that caused him to contact the SBC Radio and Television Commission about having a "Covenant" emphasis at the church he pastors -- West Robinson Baptist Church near Waco, Texas.

Jack Johnson, president of the RTVC, spoke to the church last Oct. 8. Scores in the congregation responded to his clarion call to become the right kind of examples for their children and grandchildren.

"When I heard about Covenant, I wanted to be involved in the movement," Donnell said. "What Christian wouldn't want to be involved in a movement to help America's kids?"

"That's what Covenant is all about ... our children and grandchildren ... and our responsibility to them."

The voluntary fellowship called "Covenant" was born as a result of Johnson's concern for what children and young people are watching on secular television.

"The proliferation of pornography and violence on television isn't just shocking," he said, "it's also deadly in terms of what it's doing to the minds of America's kids. We're not going to be able to stop kids from watching television, but we can encourage them to watch the better family programs by being good examples. If we watch trash, our children and grandchildren will watch trash.

"We can also educate children about media, teach them discernment. Media education is critical for both kids and adults.

"And we can pray for and witness to the producers of programs that promote violence and immorality. Hollywood is as much a mission field as Russia, Asia or Africa. When God changes hearts, we'll see the results in programs on secular television."

Johnson said "Covenant" is also in the business of producing and acquiring Christian family values programming for FamilyNet and ACTS, the RTVC's broadcast and cable TV services.

"Christian brothers like Marvin Donnell are inviting us into their churches for Covenant rallies, enabling us to get the message to people," said Johnson. "We're doing Great Commission work, preaching and teaching Jesus Christ. There's a lot of missionary work to be done in this country, especially where our kids are concerned."

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Donnell said the adults in Sunday school at West Robinson Baptist are being moved around to make room for children.

"My thing is that we include everybody," he said. "God sent us some people to work with kids ... and now our educational building seems to have nothing but children. The building is full and I don't know where we're going to put everyone.

"When you get children coming to God's house, parents come, too. It gives us an opportunity to make parents and grandparents aware of what is going on in media, that they're responsible for helping their children discern what is right and wrong about television programs.

"Some kids are in church one hour a week ... and they're in front of the TV set 20 hours a week. Their minds are being dealt with both places, but it stands to reason that the odds aren't in our favor."

Donnell spent 20 years in industry before responding to God's call.

"Oh, I was doing the church thing for years," he said, "but wasn't really committed.

Then a tragedy happened that he still has difficulty talking about. He was one of the sponsors of a church lock-in where a girl that was like a daughter to him died in a bizarre mishap.

"That was sort of a hinge-point in my life," he said. "I was filled with anger, grief and frustration. But it was the love of the church that opened my eyes. That's when I discovered it was a real deal.

"We can plead ignorance and avoid God's revelations. We can talk about abundant life and think it's going to show up in a shopping cart. That's the way it was with me. I wasn't exactly drowning, but I knew there was some water there. And though I tried to ignore them, there were some gradual and adequate points of call."

Donnell said that as a result of God dealing with him he saw the lostness of the people around him at the factory where he worked.

"I was ultra-sensitive about everything," he said. "I started praying that God would lead me to someone who I could bring to Christ.

"I talked to my pastor about it and he said, 'Let's pray that God will send someone to you.'"

Donnell said the very next morning a man walked into his office with a problem and he was able to lead him to the Lord.

"God tore off the hinges and it has been his power and that of the Holy Spirit all the way," he said. "I feel as though I'm totally under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and I'm just as excited today as I was 18 years ago when all that happened. God keeps me pumped."

Donnell's burden for family ministry has opened a number of doors. He has specialized ministries to truckers, construction workers and policemen.

"We've got four men in our church who serve as chaplains to truckers and their families," he said. "We provide truckers with country gospel tapes and Bible correspondence courses. We do the same for their families.

"We also have a police chaplain who ministers to police officers and their families," Donnell said.

"We just go out where the people are because the church needs to be on the offensive. We need to quit playing church, quit shortchanging God and get on with it.

"And that sure goes for how we help our children deal with media."

**Southwestern student Bruner
balances career with calling**

By Mark Reimer

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--When Jay Bruner moved with his family from Troy, Mich., to Fort Worth, Texas, so he could attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he brought his job with him. Due to an experimental program initiated by his employer, the Kmart Corporation, he has been able to attend seminary while continuing as an executive in the company's construction division.

Bruner hopes to graduate with the master of divinity degree in 1996. He currently serves as coordinator of family group ministries at Glenview Baptist Church. After graduation, he plans to serve as a pastor or associate pastor, but nothing is set in stone, he said. "I think my background has taught me not to put any limitations on what God wants to do. If he calls us to a small, rural town or a corporate setting, we'll do it. I've learned to write everything in pencil and have an eraser close by."

Bruner said the desire of many corporate employees to continue their education prompted Kmart to develop a plan to allow employees to reduce their work schedules in the fall and spring and work full-time in summer. "I was one of the 'guinea pigs'," Bruner said. He currently works a minimum of 33 hours per week and attends class.

At the time he learned about Kmart's new educational program, Bruner, 33, was working with Kmart in Troy, Mich. He had risen through the Kmart ranks in just a few years to become the No. 2 man in the division, with 30 employees and five regional offices under his supervision. He was well on the way to a very successful career in business. Then God changed his focus.

"I was looking at Kmart as a career path. I had thought the Lord might be calling me into ministry a little while before, but I just couldn't believe it. With my background, it was quite a journey," Bruner said. That background included a degree from Texas A&M University in construction management in 1983 and a job in general contracting in the Dallas/Fort Worth area immediately after graduation.

After telling his general manager at Kmart two years ago of his plan to move to Texas, he was offered his old position in Fort Worth and the opportunity to attend school in exchange for staying on with Kmart.

"I feel like God has given us these experiences to better prepare us for ministry," he said. He said he believes his work in the corporate world has given him a background that will help him minister to business people.

"I've always sensed this chasm between the church and a lost world," Bruner commented. "There has got to be people who can walk in and sit down with a guy and say, 'I understand exactly what you're talking about. I know what it means to work 65 hours a week, to have deadlines and be pushed to the limit. I know how precious time is, and instead of taxing you even more, I want to become a part of your time.'"

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**Newport named Gallup
Institute 'Fellow'**

Baptist Press
12/1/94

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--John P. Newport, retired vice president for academic affairs and provost at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named one of 100 Fellows for The George H. Gallup International Institute in Princeton, N.J.

As a Gallup Institute Fellow for the next year, Newport will have the opportunity not only to react to surveys of the public but also the opportunity to suggest new topics for the Institute to test in future surveys.

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In announcing Newport's selection, Institute Chairman George Gallup Jr. said, "We are excited about the potential of the Gallup Institute Fellowship because we have the opportunity to model the kind of leadership desirable in a democracy: leaders without vested interests of any kind presenting ideas and programs in national surveys, reflecting upon the response, and developing practical recommendations to take to policymakers in the various power centers of our society -- government, business, the public sector, the media, the church, and others."

Gallup reported the background and perspectives of the 100 Fellows differ in "interesting ways which will make for lively and constructive discourse. All, however, are united in concern about the underlying values and spiritual resiliency of Americans at this point in history."

Bill Moss, a prominent Baptist layman and the National Republican Party's treasurer, recommended Newport for the Fellowship and provided his \$2,500 participation fee.

"I took no initiative in this nomination, but I think the Gallup Institute Fellowship could be a helpful program and give some recognition to Southwestern Seminary," said Newport, whose son Frank succeeded Gallup as editor-in-chief of the Gallup Poll. "I consider it an honor to be a part of this unique group."

At Southwestern Seminary, Newport also is distinguished professor of philosophy of religion. His specific areas of expertise are Christian apologetics, occult and New Age movements, religious language and biblical interpretation, Christianity and the arts, the book of Revelation, world religions, and Christian evaluation of humanism.

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EDITORS' NOTE: Two features not included in the daily BP mailing were posted in the SBCNet News Room. One was on a church in Medicine Park, Okla., under the slug line BUILD.OKL. The other was about a Dallas-based writer of children's adventure stories under REAIMP.BP.

Thanks,
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