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-- BAPTIST PRESS

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January 20, 1995

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CompassionNet: instant computer
link to mission prayer needs

By Mark Kelly

Baptist Press
1/20/95

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The dawn of a new year marked a revolutionary development in prayer support for foreign missions.

CompassionNet, a worldwide electronic prayer network sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, went on-line Jan. 1 with SBCNet, Southern Baptists' computer network.

The launch of CompassionNet means that urgent prayer needs -- from the most remote mission fields -- can be communicated instantaneously to Southern Baptists ready to pray for them, said Randy Sprinkle, director of the FMB's international prayer strategy office.

CompassionNet comes along at a critical moment in history, Sprinkle added.

"We have entered a new era of kingdom history," he said. "God is at work in the world as never before. People who have never heard are hearing the gospel. We're seeing people from every area of the world coming to salvation. God has given us the tools to link the world instantly so the gospel can be preached in power to every nation."

Letters from missionaries once were the only way prayer supporters could learn about spiritual needs -- and overseas mail could take months to arrive. Mission publications and other media often speed up the delivery, but not always fast enough to meet urgent prayer needs.

The growing worldwide availability of telephone and satellite services -- and the fax machines and electronic mail that go with it -- now allow missionaries to instantly communicate needs and opportunities to supporters back home.

Prayer requests from missionaries are now posted immediately on CompassionNet, where users will find them filed under such categories as country, unreached people group and mega-city (a city with over 1 million population). Urgent prayer needs can reach intercessors in a matter of minutes instead of months, Sprinkle said.

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The Foreign Mission Board took a major step forward in getting prayer needs before Southern Baptists in 1986 when it launched the Foreign Missions PrayerLine (1-800-395-PRAY) that allows intercessors to receive missionary prayer requests toll-free by telephone. The service now has five lines with new messages three times a week and logs more than 15,000 calls each month.

PrayerLine, however, is limited to one brief message at a time, while CompassionNet offers intercessors a comprehensive list of prayer requests from every area of the world.

Access to CompassionNet requires only a personal computer equipped with a modem and subscriptions to CompuServe and SBCNet. For a limited time, a free introductory subscription may be obtained by calling SBCNet at 1-800-325-7749. The kit includes a free month of CompuServe and a \$25 usage credit that can be applied toward SBCNet access.

SBCNet also offers Baptist Press news articles, on-line access to Sunday school lesson resources, sermon outlines and illustrations, worship helps, on-line publications and informational graphics.

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(BP) graphic illustration (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers Jan. 19 by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Graphic and cutline also available on SBCNet News Room.

Court grants victory
to foes of child porn

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
1/20/95

WASHINGTON (BP)--The circuitous legal trail of the Knox v. United States case ended recently with the U.S. Supreme Court granting a victory to opponents of child pornography.

The Supreme Court announced Jan. 17 it would not grant a review to the case, thereby upholding the conviction of Stephen Knox for possession of child pornography.

The court's action ended a case which found the Clinton administration's Department of Justice and Congress tangling, with Justice eventually reversing its position. In 1993, the Department of Justice had reversed a previous interpretation and argued against Knox's conviction. As a result, the Supreme Court returned the case to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in November 1993.

A large contingent from Congress strongly opposed Justice's new interpretation. Three days after the Supreme Court remanded the case, the Senate showed its displeasure by passing by a 100-0 vote a non-binding resolution saying the Justice Department's brief "did not accurately reflect the intent of Congress" in enacting child pornography legislation.

The appeals court likewise disagreed with the Justice arguments, as put forth by Solicitor General Drew Days, and again upheld the conviction. Days contended child pornography must "show minors engaged in the conduct of lasciviously exhibiting their (or someone else's) genitals or pubic areas" and must include visible depiction of the genitals.

The 1984 law's interpretation argued by the Department of Justice under President Bush and upheld by the court of appeals focused on the intention of the adults producing the photos or videos. It did not require nudity in the child models but the lascivious exhibition of their genitals. The definition by Days would have allowed much child pornography to escape prosecution, anti-porn proponents said.

The videos confiscated from Knox's apartment in Pennsylvania showed young girls in unnatural poses and clothed in bathing suits, leotards and underwear beneath short skirts. The videos contained extended closeups of the girls' covered genital areas. The literature promoting the videos describes the young girls as sexually enticing.

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"The Supreme Court has seen through Mr. Knox's transparent defense that scanty clothing can cover the wrongfulness of child porn videos, which he admitted were intended to sexually arouse pedophiles," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

After the appeals court upheld the conviction for the second time, Attorney General Janet Reno announced in November 1994 the Department of Justice had changed its position and was opposed to Knox's appeal for the Supreme Court to accept his case. Reno said she agreed with the appeals court's ruling and not with the interpretation of her solicitor general. The brief filed with the court bore her signature rather than that of Days.

In addition to Reno's brief, 238 members of Congress and two members-elect also submitted a brief asking the court to refuse to review the case.

The court's action "brings a merciful end to this disgraceful case where the Clinton Justice Department initially attempted to undermine and subvert the tough, principled laws against child pornography enacted during the Reagan and Bush administrations," said Rep. Chris Smith, R.-N.J., a leader in congressional anti-porn efforts.

"The kids being exploited by pornography have but one ally, and that is the Child Protection Act. Now that the Knox case is behind us, we owe it to America's children to strictly enforce this law," Smith said in a prepared statement.

The Christian Life Commission joined the National Law Center for Children and Families and 30 organizations on a friend-of-the-court brief opposing review of the case by the Supreme Court. Included on the brief were the National Parent Teacher Association, National Coalition Against Pornography, Focus on the Family and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The American Civil Liberties Union and eight mostly publishing organizations argued on behalf of Knox in a friend-of-the-court brief. Nudity is a requirement for a conviction under the federal child pornography law. If the appeals court's opinion is not overturned, art photographs, medical texts, catalogs, and music and aerobics videos could be declared criminal.

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Southeastern speaker
decries ongoing racism

By Dwayne Hastings

Baptist Press
1/20/95

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The virus of racism still infects all of society, including its churches, stated Fred Grissom, professor of church history at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, in the Jan. 18 spring convocation opening SEBTS' 45th year as a Southern Baptist seminary.

Grissom, comparing the false prophets of the Old Testament with those in American history who argued for a legal and societal distinction by race, said, "... racial fear and hatred eat away at our soul and rob us of the peace that could be ours if we repented of our sin and began to love one another as Jesus did."

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus," Grissom said, reading from Galatians 3:28. "I don't know all this verse means," he added, "but I know it means at least one thing -- there is no room for racism in the hearts and minds of the followers of Christ."

Grissom, a native of Alabama, recounted memories of his childhood where the local department store had two drinking fountains. "Each had a sign over it and even before I could read the signs I knew I was supposed to drink from one and people whose skin color was different from mine were to drink from the other."

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He said it was a visit to the zoo at Memphis, Tenn., as a 6-year-old that brought him to a realization that his skin color gave him an advantage in society: "Our visit to the zoo was to be the highlight of the trip. But we didn't get to go to the zoo. It was Thursday, and Thursday was colored day at the zoo. After a while it occurred to me that people like me could go all the days of week but one."

Grissom said even though he had heard preachers say conditions in society were good and right -- "that segregation was part of God's eternal plan and that any attempt to change God's will in this matter was a sin against God" -- he was no longer "sure this was a good and right thing."

While these preachers were sure their message was God's message, Grissom said they made a serious mistake when they encouraged him to read the Bible. He discovered Scripture texts they used to defend their stand for segregation did not agree with Jesus' teaching.

"In reading the Bible, I found Jesus never treated any person, no matter how lowly or despicable in the eyes of others, with any less love than he treated those just like himself. I discovered the test to discern a true prophet is to ask: 'Does the message the prophet is speaking fit the teachings of Jesus?'"

The structure of legal segregation in society has been demolished, but Grissom said people still act on the basis of race more than Christian love, affirming a continuing need for the message of men like Martin Luther King Jr.

"There is no 'us' and 'them' in Christ; there is only 'we.' We will never be able to be the ministers in Christ that God intends us to be until and unless we lay aside the weight of racism that has beset us for so long. It is a scandal on those who claim to be God's prophets," Grissom said. His address brought a standing ovation from the packed crowd in Southeastern's Binkley Hall.

Also during the convocation service, five professors elected to the faculty by the board of trustees last fall signed the original copy of the seminary's Abstract of Principles. The articles represent the oldest confession of faith adopted by Southern Baptists, having been drawn up in 1856 by James P. Boyce and Basil Manly Jr. at the founding of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Those signing the document, affirming their intent to teach under its doctrinal beliefs, were Stephen Andrews, assistant professor of Old Testament and Hebrew; Logan Carson, professor of theology; John Davis, assistant professor of church music; David Puckett, professor of church history; and David Sinclair, assistant professor of preaching and speech.

Southeastern President Paige Patterson began the service by welcoming students back to classes and by noting the over 100 new students just beginning their studies on the school's Wake Forest, N.C., campus.

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Rwandan refugee baby adopted,
thanks to missionaries

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
1/20/95

BUKOKA, Tanzania (BP)--Annamary Neema is a product of the great shame of Rwanda -- an orphan refugee deprived of her family by last year's ethnic slaughter and of her mother by death just days after she was born.

Yet she's also the redemption of the much lesser -- but still very real -- "shame" of William and Feliciana Caroli, a Tanzanian Baptist pastor and his wife. They help lead ministry in Rwandan refugee camps in northwestern Tanzania.

Just days before Annamary was born last summer, her mother joined the surging scramble across jungles and swamps to flee the killing in Rwanda. Nine days after her August birth, Annamary was orphaned. Her mother probably died from meningitis and there were numerous indicators she had AIDS.

The infant, facing as bleak a future as almost any baby in the world, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Isingiro, Tanzania, where the Roman Catholic nurses fell in love with her, had her baptized by a priest and named her.

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Meanwhile, another "homeless" refugee from Rwanda got involved: Southern Baptist missionary Janet Hooten.

Hooten, of Knoxville, Tenn., also was forced to flee Rwanda with her family during the civil war. She and her husband, David, were working with other Foreign Mission Board missionaries in the Kagenya Refugee Camp in Tanzania.

Told of Annamary's plight, she and her husband walked from hut to hut for days in the refugee zone where the baby's mother had lived, looking for relatives. But no one knew anything about the dead woman or her baby. No one claimed the mother's body for burial.

The day after their unfruitful search ended, Hooten was visiting with Feliciano Caroli, who was working as a cook for the Baptist Relief Services refugee camp. Caroli, married for six years to her Baptist pastor husband, had no children.

Being childless "is a shame for us" in Tanzanian culture, she told the missionary. The couple wanted either medical help to overcome their inability to have children -- or to adopt a child.

Hooten hadn't mentioned the orphaned baby girl before. When she did, Caroli eagerly agreed to pray with her husband about adopting the infant. Early the next morning they answered "yes."

But the United Nations High Commission on Refugees rules that Rwandan orphans should be placed with Rwandan families. The fact that there were more orphans than families willing to take them -- and that any such adoption would doom Annamary to years, if not a lifetime, in a refugee camp -- didn't change the administrative decision.

So while Annamary grew fat and spoiled at the hospital in the care of fiercely protective nurses, Hooten and others looked unsuccessfully for a "suitable home" by U.N. standards -- all the while praying the Carolis would get to adopt the child.

Twice when the Carolis felt they were on the verge of becoming Annamary's parents, they instead absorbed emotional body blows. First they were informed the baby might be HIV-positive.

After several days of prayerful struggle, they still felt they wanted to take the girl and trust God to care for her needs. HIV tests won't show definitive results until the baby is older, Hooten said.

Later the Carolis were told they would have to foster-parent Annamary for two years to give time for any relatives to be found. If any appeared in that time, they would have to surrender the child immediately. Again, they were willing to take the risk.

Finally, on Dec. 14, the last signature was affixed to the last form and Annamary, for the first time in four months, had a mother. And for the first time in her life, she has a father.

Her new parents have a good farm, and her father is employed as an evangelist by the Baptist Convention of Tanzania. He is pastor of Nykabwera Baptist Church, a mission congregation just outside the Kagenya camp, and is one of the leaders in evangelistic outreach to the refugees.

Annamary is one of almost 200 unaccompanied, abandoned or orphaned children Baptist Relief Services has placed with suitable families within the refugee camps in Tanzania. That's in addition to the hundreds of Rwandan children being cared for by missionaries and Baptists in a Zaire camp.

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(BP) photos (one horizontal, one vertical) mailed to state Baptist newspapers Jan. 20 by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutline available on SBCNet News Room.

**Sammy Tippit earns recognition
overseas as ambassador for Christ By Ken Walker**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--More than 1,000 souls came to Christ at his October crusade in the Brazilian city of Goiana. More followed in November in Cuba and December in Uganda.

Because he has concentrated his soul-winning efforts overseas for the past two decades, Southern Baptist Sammy Tippit may be one of the lesser-known evangelists in America. But he remains one of the most effective, according to the co-author of his 1993 autobiography, "No Matter What The Cost."

"Sammy has never had a meeting in his whole life where someone didn't get saved," said author Jerry Jenkins, who also collaborated on Billy Graham's memoirs (scheduled for release this year.) "He has such incredible power in his preaching. He preaches with authority, compassion and earnestness that people are drawn (to salvation.)"

David Walker, his pastor the last 11 years, said Sammy and his wife, "Tex," are a blessing to Alamo City Baptist Church, northeast of the San Antonio, Texas. The evangelist has preached there on a number of occasions and she is active in the women's prayer ministry.

"They are authentic Christians," Walker said. "There's no 'fluff' or 'make believe.' They carry themselves as true believers and our folks delight to see that. Sammy has helped lift our vision out of San Antonio and Texas, into other areas of the world where the harvest field is very ripe."

In "No Matter What the Cost," Tippit said he prefers the label, "ambassador for Christ," since it denotes a servant. Ironically, Moody Press paid tribute to Tippit last October by including him in its book, "Ambassadors for Christ." The compilation of more than 50 biographical portraits of missionaries around the world from the past several centuries includes such notable names as Graham, pioneering Baptist missionaries Adoniram Judson and Lottie Moon, and David Livingstone.

The book's general editor was John Woodbridge, professor of church history at Trinity Evangelical Divinity Seminary in Illinois. He and the Moody editorial staff made the selections for the 350-page, full-color book.

Tippit calls it "humbling and exciting" to be included in this group of legendary figures. And he credits his Southern Baptist heritage with playing an important role in his salvation, growth and ministry.

Saved in a revival in Louisiana preached by James Robison, he was later ordained at First Baptist Church, Walker, La. He attended Louisiana College, a Baptist-affiliated school where he began witnessing on the streets in the late 1960s. He set up an organized ministry in Chicago in 1970 and also worked in Miami before shifting to foreign nations in 1973.

Ever since, Southern Baptists have formed the basis of his overseas support. For example, Wade Akins, director of pioneer evangelism in Brazil, coordinated his October visit and preached with him at a spiritual awakening conference.

"It's not just financial support, they are the main organizers," said Tippit. "They bridge gaps, too, saying, 'Let's make these meetings for the whole evangelical community.' They do that because they trust me."

God's Love In Action is the name of Tippit's ministry, which by his count has led more than 150,000 to salvation in the past four years alone. Those decisions have been reached on every continent and in some 40 countries -- places like Mongolia, Romania, Siberia, various former Soviet republics and Germany.

Since his paid staff numbers just 10 (one in San Antonio and the rest in Albania, Moldavia and Siberia), Tippit utilizes a network of believers to organize his crusades. They are dedicated, like the volunteers in one country who convinced Coca-Cola to pick up the cost of a billboard advertising a crusade. The low-key operation does not seek offerings, either. Tippit said he and his wife felt led years ago to allow God to provide for their needs. Financial support comes from about 200 on his newsletter mailing list of 2,000, he said.

Most of his meetings are held in cities with populations between 250,000 and 1 million. However, this year in Brazil Tippit will speak in Rio de Janeiro (10 million), Sao Paulo (20 million) and Manaus, a state capital and the largest city on the Amazon River.

"We're taking sections of those cities each year," he said, outlining plans to preach in a 200,000-seat stadium in Rio de Janeiro in the year 2000. "This is something new, which is why we're taking it slow. We're starting to get other inquiries from major cities, but we're feeling out what we're doing. We don't have a big organization."

Tippit said his ministry follows two guiding principles: mobilizing the body of Christ in prayer movements prior to his visit and personal evangelism. If Christians pray and reach out then people will respond, he said.

Because his denominational ties remain in the background, Tippit has also been able to cross denominational barriers with charismatic Christians. He said they like his strong emphasis on prayer and fiery sermon delivery.

"I've never been afraid of charismatics," said the Louisiana native. "I understand where many of them are coming from. I believe they have offered much to the body of Christ. They have been on the cutting edge of leading out to reach the world We need to understand we don't have to agree on everything, but we do have to love each other."

In spite of his overseas call, Tippit said the spiritual darkness in America motivated him to organize a new daily three-minute radio program. "Love In Action" consists of interviews and biblically based commentary on God's activity around the globe. It debuted in September, with a goal of airing on 100 stations early this year.

The Texas-based evangelist said the program resulted from a meeting at Focus on the Family's headquarters Colorado Springs, Colo., last January.

"For the first time in many years, God broke my heart for this country," he said of his speech to the group. "I don't know where that's going to lead, or if it will lead to anything. If he (God) will give me the liberty to do anything else, I'll go."

For a man who takes the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 literally, that isn't hard to imagine.

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Walker is a free-lance writer in Louisville, Ky.

Peasant woman's courage fueled
not by preaching, but prayer

By Ken Walker

Baptist Press
1/20/95

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--Sammy Tippit was preaching at a crusade in the Republic of Moldova a year before the Soviet Union's fall. First a water bottle mysteriously exploded. Then he began quoting John 3:16 and the electricity sputtered out for 15 minutes. When he finished, nobody responded to his invitation to accept Christ.

"God, touch someone's heart," he prayed.

Suddenly, a short peasant woman shuffled forward. Approaching the podium, she handed Tippit a bouquet of flowers and knelt at the foot of the stage. Others followed in ones and twos. Slowly, the procession turned into a stream. More than 2,500 received Jesus as Savior that day.

He thought that was pretty amazing. But he discovered how miraculous it was after returning home and telling others about the event. The story spurred a supporter to call and bring him her prayer diary. For two months before the crusade, she showed him how she had interceded for a poor peasant woman to "have the courage to do whatever God wanted her to do."

"The real heroes of the faith are not platform people like me," Tippit said. "They are people who have tarried for God in prayer. They may not be well-known to men, but they are well-known to God."

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"That was amazing," echoed Jerry Jenkins, who co-authored "God's Love In Action," the 1973 book that first told Tippit's story -- and last year's updated version. "It was bizarre. It's probably the highlight of the meetings I've attended, although there's many highlights."

Jenkins also traveled to Romania with Tippit in 1986. It was Jenkins' first trip to the Eastern Bloc. Back in the days of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, he said the border guards looked like caricatures from a grade-B movie -- overweight, overbearing, fists out and guns drawn.

"I was struck by the Third World quality of the country," Jenkins recalled. "So much poverty and squalid conditions. It was humbling to see how people lived out their faith in those circumstances."

So was watching Tippit in action. While Jenkins' stomach knotted up after a delay in entering the country, Tippit remained cool. Although Tippit admitted he had been nervous as they crossed Hungary en route, he told Jenkins, "If God wants us in Romania, no one will be able to keep us out. If he wants us there, we'll get there. If he doesn't, we won't."

They made it and stayed 10 days. One meeting that especially impressed Jenkins was held at Second Baptist Church of Oradea. More than 3,000 packed the sanctuary, he said, filling the pews, aisles and corridors. The Sunday evening service relied on kerosene lamps and a generator for lighting and sound.

One of those who came forward to accept Jesus as Savior that night was the daughter of a communist official. Jenkins said secret police were in the audience that night, which made the young woman's stand that much more courageous.

Tippit recalled a later visit, after the communist government fell. Then, people surrounded him in the streets of Timisoara and shouted, "There is a God! There is a God!" But, he said, the Lord's heart extends past soul-winning meetings that excite so many Christians.

"I believe when we get to the heart of it we find that God's concern is much greater than evangelism," he said. "We also want new believers to grow in Christ. We do follow-up Bible studies (with converts) daily for 30 days. Follow-up is directly related to the life and health of the local church."

Which is why the church begins when Sammy Tippit's meetings end.

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Family remembers loved one
with Acteens scholarship

By Teresa Dickens

Baptist Press
1/20/95

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Jessica Powell Loftis' life ended too soon.

At only 14, her life was snuffed out in an automobile accident on Oct. 30, 1993. The crash also took the life of her father, John F. Loftis, then executive director of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

Although Jessica's life ended prematurely, her influence will live on indefinitely thanks to a fund established in her memory through Woman's Missionary Union, with interest the fund earns to be used for Acteens projects and scholarships.

"She was a typical teen-ager," recalled Jessica's mother, Deborah C. Loftis of Birmingham. "She loved to watch television and to be with her friends. She hated homework and her room was always a disaster."

Jessica also was a talker and thinker, Loftis explained to WMU's executive board during their Jan. 7-11 meeting. "She and her father often had long conversations on everything from governmental issues and sports to theology and convention politics.

"But the focal point of her life was Acteens," continued Loftis, a member of Riverchase Baptist Church, Birmingham. "She became aware of world events and of God's special plan for her life.

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"I am very proud of Jessica's involvement in Acteens and how much it meant to her," said Loftis, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and former staff member in several Louisville-area churches. "I very much want Acteens work to go in every area where it can."

To that end and in memory of Jessica, Loftis told the board that she and her parents, Capt. and Mrs. David S. Stear of Midlothian, Va., would make initial gifts of \$20,000 to WMU to establish an endowed fund for Acteens. Loftis also pledged to contribute another \$10,000 to the fund over the next 10 years.

"It is my desire that in her death, Jessica will achieve part of what she might have accomplished by her life," said the mother. "Through this scholarship will come hope for young women who find purpose and direction through Acteens."

In accepting the gift from Loftis, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said, "We want to say how very much we appreciate this opportunity. You have certainly established the future for many Acteens. I know there will be many of us who will also want to contribute to the fund so that the influence of your precious daughter will live for many, many years to come."

O'Brien also announced the executive board had approved naming the scholarship the Jessica Powell Loftis Fund for Acteens. Guidelines for the fund will be determined and administered by the WMU board's endowment committee.

Anyone wanting additional information on the Acteens fund may write Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

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(BP) photo available upon request from WMU.

WMU announces changes,
additions in staff

Baptist Press
1/20/95

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Woman's Missionary Union has reassigned two staff members and filled two other positions.

June Whitlow, a 28-year WMU employee, and Marti Solomon, a 15-year employee, have been named to two newly created positions on the national WMU staff. Jennifer Law and Teresa Dickens joined the staff Jan. 3.

Whitlow became senior associate executive director Jan. 7. In the new role, she serves the organization as chief operating officer.

A native of Arkansas, Whitlow joined the WMU, SBC, staff in 1967. Holding several titles during her tenure, she had been associate executive director for missions coordination since 1983.

She is a graduate of Blue Mountain College in Mississippi and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Solomon has been named marketing specialist for distribution, effective Jan. 23. In this role, she works with Baptist and other Christian bookstores to distribute WMU products.

A native of Vicksburg, Miss., Solomon joined the WMU staff in 1979 as Acteens consultant. Her title was changed in 1990 to Acteens specialist. Among her responsibilities in that role was the National Acteens Convention, which drew 14,000 teen-age girls to Birmingham, Ala., in June 1994.

Prior to coming to WMU, Solomon held staff positions at First Baptist Church, Groves, Texas; Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; and Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood, Miss.

She is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and Southwestern Seminary.

Law is design editor in the products editorial group for WMU. She previously served as preschool and children's minister of St. Johns Creek Baptist Church, Alpharetta, Ga. Earlier, she was a teacher in the after-school program of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

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A native of Mechanicsville, Va., Law worked in WMU camping programs in Virginia and Kentucky. She is a graduate of James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Dickens joins the WMU, SBC, staff as communications specialist. She previously served as advertising coordinator/news writer for the Mississippi Baptist Record for two and a half years. From 1989-92, she was newswriter for Missouri Baptists' Word & Way.

A native of Saucier, Miss., she served 1987-88 as a semester missionary with the Home Mission Board, working as campus minister at Ohio University, Athens. In 1982, she worked in Ohio as a summer missionary.

Dickens is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, and Southwestern Seminary.

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Charles Stanley keynote speaker
for SBC evangelists conference

Baptist Press
1/20/95

ATLANTA (BP)--Charles Stanley, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church and former Southern Baptist Convention president, will be the keynote speaker for the annual Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists held during the SBC annual meeting June 20-22.

According to Ron Pledger, conference president from Stone Mountain, Ga., the 1995 theme will be "Through Every Storm There Is Purpose, Power and Provision." The conference will be held during the Wednesday break of the SBC annual meeting beginning at 1 p.m. in the Georgia Dome.

In addition to Stanley, well-known through his television "In Touch Ministries," Pledger and others will also address the gathering.

Special music will include Howard and Vestal Goodman, Nashville, Tenn.; Mike Speck Trio; and Lois Jane Huddleston. Ron Bowlus of Tampa, Fla., and assistant Jerry Oliver, Mesquite, Texas, will direct the music.

The conference is open to SBC messengers and the general public free of charge, Pledger said.

"Afterglow" music programs are again planned for Tuesday and Wednesday evenings following sessions of the SBC annual meeting. Larry B. Russell, Quinlan, Texas; Bud and Barbara Lee, Blue Springs, Mo.; the Goodmans; the Speck Trio; and Huddleston will highlight the "largest lineup of special music in recent history," Pledger said.

"Afterglow" programs also are free of charge and will be held at the Omni Hotel's International Ballroom across the street from the Georgia Dome.

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