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Baptists' Oklahoma City
relief fund tops \$260,000

By Dave Parker

Baptist Press
5/8/95

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Baptists across Oklahoma and around the world have responded to the needs of the Oklahoma City bombing victims by providing more than \$260,000 in relief funds.

The relief fund was set up by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to help with funeral expenses, hospital costs or related expenses in the wake of the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

A total of 166 people died in the explosion that damaged more than 200 buildings and left an additional 400 people injured. Also, a rescue worker died after being hit by falling debris.

Investigators suspect the bombing was in retaliation for the April 19, 1993, fire at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas. The fire ended a three-week siege by federal agents.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has arrested one suspect in the bombing and is holding two more men as material witnesses. All three men had at one time attended meetings of the Michigan Militia, but militia leaders said the three were too radical for the group.

Charles Graves, president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer, said they were not surprised Oklahoma Baptists responded to people in a crisis situation, but were taken aback at the amount given.

By Friday afternoon May 5, donations totalled \$263,530.08.

"I'm just greatly impressed," said Graves, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. "I'm not really surprised, because I see in Southern Baptists in Oklahoma a great spirit in any crisis. I just expect Baptists to do well.

"It is astonishing to see how tremendously generous our Baptists have been," he said. "This has demonstrated the concern that Baptist folks have for people in need."

Tanner echoed those sentiments.

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"If you know anything about the heart of Oklahoma Baptists, you know they would be willing in a heartbeat to walk the first, second or third mile to reach out to the people of our state who are hurting," he said. "They will always take time to help, so consequently I am not surprised.

"I am surprised, though, at the amount of funds that continue to come in to the relief fund, not only from Oklahoma Baptists but from Baptists around the country," he added.

The relief fund committee met May 3 to deal with some assistance requests and to decide how the money will be disbursed.

In addition to Graves and Tanner, the committee is made up of Anthony Jordan, pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Oklahoma City; Rod Masteller, pastor of Putnam City Baptist Church in Oklahoma City; and Capital Baptist Association executive director Ernie Perkins.

Graves said the committee decided to handle assistance requests through local churches. The pastors will be responsible for verifying there is a legitimate need, and for delivering the funds once they are approved.

He said the committee felt going through the local church was best because "the Baptist Building exists to help the local churches. We want this to have the feel of ministry being done by the local church." Graves also said he thought Baptists wanted to help with specific needs.

"We decided the people giving the money this way are not giving it for institutional areas like the Red Cross and Salvation Army," he said. "They do a very good job, but our feeling was that the people prefer giving to individuals.

"We are trying our best to do what our Baptists want."

Tanner said he is "personally committed to seeing that these funds are used to help people, not only with needs over the short term but in the long term as well.

"We will continue to channel funds into the needs of people until all the funds are gone."

He said the bombing was a "terrible tragedy," but it brought out the best in people, who are showing "we care and we care deeply."

"Hopefully we will never experience this type of tragedy again," Tanner said. "But our people will continue to care and to respond. That's who we are.

"It is difficult to imagine the degree and intensity of hurt so many Baptist families are experiencing through the loss of loved ones," he said. "But one of the ways we can help is through this channel provided by Oklahoma Baptists and Baptists around the world."

Graves said he could not thank Southern Baptists enough.

"Thank you is too small," he said. "I don't have the words to express thanks for the great kindness Baptists have shown."

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Okla. City crime scene officer
keeps balance through church

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
5/8/95

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Being involved in his church helps Kent Harville keep emotional balance despite a career that could lead to emotional and spiritual coldness.

Harville, a technical investigator with the Oklahoma City Police Department, deals with work situations many people could not endure long: he "processes" crime scenes.

In more specific terms, the 15-year police veteran and ordained Southern Baptist minister photographs, sketches and diagrams crime scenes. He takes measurements, dusts for fingerprints and photographs and fingerprints dead crime victims. He sees the graphic results of some of the most repulsive crimes committed in the city.

Harvill also conducts the city's Technical Investigation School. Ironically, he was doing just that on the morning of April 19 when the class of 20 people was jolted by the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, five miles away.

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A guest lecturer, Oklahoma City Bomb Investigator Ed Southard, was talking about bomb scene investigation. Harville, leaning in his chair against the wall at the back of the classroom, felt the wall move and joked with Southard asking, "Is this something you've added for effect?"

Outside, however, Harville realized the situation was no joke. Plumes of smoke were rising from downtown. Rushing to his vehicle, he turned on the police radio and heard officers talking about victims.

Class was suspended as the guest instructor and several class members soon were deployed. Harville was assigned to meet a helicopter to take aerial photographs of the crime scene.

For the next week and a half, Harville juggled directing the remaining sessions of the school with working in the temporary morgue, a wing of the heavily damaged First United Methodist Church.

One of his most difficult duties was going to a local home to dust for prints to confirm the identity of a bombing victim. A child, one of many without dental records, could not be identified without confirming fingerprints from toys and other favorite little-girl possessions.

And as the days piled up, the bodies delivered to the morgue arrived in a variety of conditions.

But Harville said the unusual number of victims and their disfigurements did not cause him undue emotional distress.

"I look at this as my job," he reflected during an interview two weeks into disaster rescue efforts. "It's a large crime scene. Human elements affect me more away from the scene -- when I hear a child read a poem on television or a video report is accompanied by music.

"I don't think of the bodies I deal with as people who have families. They are bodies."

He admitted in this instance, coping is more difficult "when the victim is a good, upstanding citizen that this should not have happened to. That affects you more than someone who is involved in criminal elements."

Harville is quick to point out he could not maintain balance in his emotions and his spiritual life "if it were not for church. If all you dealt with were law-breakers, you'd have a hard time," he said of his career. "If I couldn't leave that at work and go be involved with good people at church, I couldn't do it."

Church, for Harville, is Quail Springs Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, where he said he sees "my really close friends," and where he has received expressions of concern for his work in recent days.

Sitting near the "Chaplain's Corner" at the crime scene, Harville's thoughts returned to the massive effort to remove bodies from seemingly unending wreckage.

"This is the biggest thing I've ever been a part of. It's been a sense of amazement at the different government agencies coming together to do the job."

Looking around at the innumerable volunteers serving food and meeting a variety of other practical needs, he continued, "This may be cliché, but it gives you a good feeling about human nature and people willing to give of themselves."

Harville and his wife, Barbara, are the parents of two daughters, Amber, 16, and Allison, 9. Having to work on a crime scene involving children, he observed, "helps you appreciate your kids as the gifts that they are."

"It isn't the enormity of the disaster. It's the little personal things that make me think about it and feel bad about it.

"I'm not glad for the event, but I am glad I could have some small part in helping with whatever talents or skills I have to offer. I've worked a lot of crime scenes, but this will be the most memorable and tragic crime scene I've been a part of.

"I'll remember this forever."

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(BP) photo (horizontal) of Harville and his daughter Allison mailed to state Baptist newspapers and posted in the SBCNet News Room by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press. Two additional photos (one vertical and one horizontal) are being mailed.

While families weep,
a pastor also grieves

By Charles Willis

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Mark Estep started to get into his car on the morning of April 19, when the sound of a startling boom filled his garage. Never would he have expected so much could happen in a literal instant to change the course of families, congregations and pastors all across Oklahoma City's metroplex.

Certainly he did not know how quickly his life and his church family would be altered forever.

He recalled thinking the sound was too loud to be a sonic boom. Going back into the house, Estep, pastor of First Baptist Church of suburban Nicoma Park, Okla., turned on his television set.

Within a few minutes, routine programming was interrupted by a news bulletin, the first of many reports to come about the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Although Nicoma Park is 14 miles from the disaster site, Estep knew immediately the possible, awful consequences for his church.

Two weeks later, he continued to cope with the results of that day, both as pastor and as an individual with overloaded emotions and strained physical limits.

He has participated in the funerals of five people, all of whom had special meaning to him and to the congregation he leads.

Dana Cooper, who operated the day care center in the federal building, was a member of the Nicoma Park church, and her 2-and-a-half-year-old son, Chris, was dedicated to the Lord at the church just a year ago. Surviving them are her husband, A.C., and her parents, Linda and Karl Brown, all active members.

Also killed was Mike Loudenslater, whose father and three brothers are members of the church. In recent months Loudenslater had moved his membership to a different church when he moved to another community.

Another member, Paul Ice, died, leaving two daughters who are church members, and still another member, David Walker, left behind a wife and children.

Estep has struggled with his emotions while trying to minister to spiritual and practical needs of surviving family members. Throughout the intervening days, he has led his church in dealing with shock.

"We had more people in church the Sunday after the bombing than we had on Easter Sunday," he said. "People are looking for answers. I don't know why God allowed this to happen, but I do know this: All things work together for good to them that love the Lord."

Acknowledging the inadequacy of words, he used what he describes as a "trite" description of the congregation being "devastated, but at the same time having a level of peace.

"I don't think we're out of the shock stage. We are not yet into the grieving stage."

Estep's life became "non-stop, literally" on that April morning and, he said, "from that moment on, my life has been dramatically changed. I have been up early every day and have been on the telephone until late at night. Much time has been spent at the hospital and at the notification center," the site where families waited to learn the fate of relatives presumed to have been in the explosion.

He struggles with composure while recalling a time at the notification center when he heard the cries of a woman who had hidden herself in the fetal position in a blanket, as though trying to create a cocoon for herself.

"I haven't wept like this in a long time," he said. "I'm really tired, physically, emotionally and spiritually. I feel like I have spent myself, and God has given me a strength and energy I should not have left over to help these people."

Through it all, he has tried to devote some of his time to his wife, Robin, and his children -- Chris, Nick and Chelsea -- all of whom, he said, have understood his lengthy absences from home "are the exception, not the rule."

As a church, he said, First Baptist's grieving "will not come for another week or two, and when it gets here, it will be pretty immense."

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While he has tried to provide some opportunity for expression of feelings through testimonies, which have resulted in the shedding of a lot of tears, he said he expects future expressions of anger.

"We cannot blame God for what happened. He understands our hearts and our anger. He will bring healing in good time."

Estep pulls from his desk a stack of notes sent to him from the children at a pastor friend's church in Denver. The writings are both touching and refreshing, he said, in their innocence and creative spellings.

"A book of theology wouldn't have helped me any more than this," he observed. "What people need now are words that are sympathetic, genuine, real.

"We just need to cry with each other for a while. We just need to be here for each other."

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(BP) photo (vertical) of Estep mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the BSSB bureau of Baptist Press.

BSSB gives weary counselors
resources in Oklahoma City

By Charles Willis

Baptist Press
5/8/95

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Ministry for physically and emotionally weary counselors to family and friends of Oklahoma City bombing victims and survivors was provided by the Baptist Sunday School Board during a morning-long session May 3.

Meeting at the Baptist Building auditorium in Oklahoma City, approximately 20 pastors, chaplains and other church staff people participated in a structured training program, followed by individual counseling as their schedules would allow.

The counseling services of Neil Knierim and Norris Smith of the BSSB's pastor-staff leadership department, and Joe Richardson, psychologist from Nacogdoches, Texas, were provided by the board "as an expression of our concern," Knierim said.

"Because of the shock and trauma of this event, the grief process will last for a long time to come," he said. "This isn't something that can be fixed with a Band-Aid."

An anchor people can hold to is "God loves and cares for you," he said.

"Somewhere in this tragedy there will be people who don't fit the mold -- people who have a strong faith. Others you feel may be strong may be very weak.

"Pray in the early part of your conversation with the bereaved," he suggested, "so they may feel more open."

Smith said dealing with corporate grief may be facilitated through several steps, including:

1) Planning realistic, authentic healing worship services, using hymns that are well-known. While people are grieving, he said, they are not up to learning new songs or thinking through mind-stretching sermons.

2) Engage the whole church in the expression of worship, by inviting people to give testimonies and participate in responsive readings.

3) For a while, make the sermons shorter and provide some variety to accommodate the short attention spans of grieving people.

4) Adjust church activities to allow for grieving. Strengthen existing programs and postpone starting anything new. Grieving people need the security of the familiar. Monitor with understanding resignations or withdrawal from church responsibilities. People who do this while grieving are not "backsliding," he said. They will need time and may need some personal attention.

5) Be authentic about your own grief. The minister who breaks down emotionally while in the pulpit should not apologize, Smith said. "This may be your most powerful sermon. The people can identify with you as grieving, too."

6) Engage deacons and other staff to monitor and minister to special groups, such as children or the elderly.

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7) Engage in the ministry of presence.

8) Prepare the church to manage their anger and their fear. The intensity and depth of grief is in proportion to the relationship of people to the crisis. Help people not to turn their grief inward.

9) Be aware of the need for the healing power of an appropriate touch, remembering that not everyone is comfortable with hugging and touching.

10) Appropriate and well-timed humor also heals.

Richardson agreed briefer messages are better during a time of grief.

"It isn't what you say. It's what you do, who you are and where you are."

Suggesting possible consequences for people in the aftermath of a crisis, Richardson said ministers should be alert to possible increases in divorce rates, as well as increases in spouse and child abuse.

"There will be such increased tension in families because of this massive stressor, abuse will climb even in fine Southern Baptist homes."

Some people, he continued, will have sleep disturbances, fear, flashbacks, nightmares and, in children, regression to an earlier form of behavior, such as bed-wetting.

Other possible results include increased anger, loss of appetite or great increases in appetite, nausea and headaches.

"Life isn't ever going to be the same," he warned. "Adjustments will take place, but it isn't ever going to be like it was.

"Minister to yourselves and to your families," he continued. "You don't have time not to. Be with the people who love you. There are times you have to spend with your family just as you do with others.

"Go ahead and own your heart. You may have the tendency to pretend you don't hurt, too. Support each other. Find someone you can be yourself with, to cry and not be corrected over it. Unload your hurt. Playing like you are doing it doesn't work."

And, finally, Richardson said, "Work for the long term."

Resources related to death, dying and grief were provided free by the BSSB to ministers attending the session.

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Lists of grief stages, unhealthy and destructive grief reactions and steps for helping people through grief are posted in the SBCNet News Room. The file name is grief.txt. Two (BP) photos (one horizontal and one vertical) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by th BSSB bureau of Baptist Press and posted in the SBCNet News Room. Two additional photos (horizontal) are being mailed.

**Southern Seminary expects
accrediting agency visit**

**Baptist Press
5/8/95**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), accrediting agency for seminaries in the United States and Canada, has contacted Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to arrange a "focused site visit" to examine concerns raised by members of the seminary's Faculty Committee.

Seminary representatives said they anticipate a visit will take place in the fall and will focus on the institution's faculty hiring process.

In announcing the ATS contact, seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. expressed confidence that the seminary's hiring process is well within ATS standards.

"I am confident that any ATS inquiry will result in an affirmation of the seminary's academic integrity," Mohler said. "We will make appropriate response and report to the ATS as such responses are requested by the agency. Southern Seminary meets or exceeds every accreditation standard and will continue to do so," he stated.

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The ATS contact comes following the dismissal March 20 of Diana R. Garland as dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work. She had made public a dispute with Mohler over the hiring of a social work professor who, in a query by Mohler, revealed he could acknowledge women as pastors. Mohler refused to give his approval to the recommendation.

At the recent meeting of the seminary's trustees, the board affirmed Mohler in the dispute and approved additional hiring guidelines, including criteria opposed to women as pastors. The board also approved an addition to the faculty manual dealing with faculty behavior in times of conflict.

The most recent visit to Southern Seminary by ATS was in the fall of 1993. Concerns raised at that time were reviewed again in the fall of 1994, and the ATS commission on accrediting reported the seminary was in compliance with all ATS standards.

An ATS visit in 1994 led to sanctions against another Southern Baptist Convention seminary, Southwestern in Fort Worth, Texas. Southwestern was placed on probation by ATS following the firing of its president by the board of trustees in 1994.

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Surgeon general should teach
abstinence, Baptist rep says

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
5/8/95

WASHINGTON (BP)--A freshman congressman who teaches Sunday school in his Southern Baptist church in Oklahoma testified at the hearing on Henry Foster the country will continue to suffer unless it has a surgeon general who teaches sexual abstinence outside of marriage.

Speaking from his experience as an obstetrician/gynecologist, Rep. Tom Coburn, R.-Okla., called adolescent sexual activity the "greatest health care risk in this country today."

One-third of all pregnancies are out of wedlock, he told the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee May 3 during the opening of the two-day hearing on President Clinton's surgeon general-designate. More than 50 million Americans have incurable viral, sexually transmitted diseases, Coburn said. Most of those infected "have no knowledge that they have the disease and yet we acquiesce to a(n) 'abstinence but' or a 'safe sex' policy which has failed."

While Coburn said he applauds Foster's efforts to help teen-agers, including a program to prevent pregnancies, he said, "He has not gone far enough. There is one message for us to tell our young people. It's abstinence. It's not 'abstinence but.' It's not 'safe sex.' It's abstinence. And if we truly care about their future, if we truly care about the quality of their life, then that's the message we'll give them."

It is "morally wrong to engage in intercourse outside of marriage, period," Coburn said. "You can agree with that or disagree with it, but the results prove that that is the correct choice. And if we're going to have a position that we are going to fill with someone who does not put forward that position at all times, then we're going to continue to reap the problems associated with sexual activity among our adolescents as well as our adults."

In his written testimony, Coburn specifically called for the committee to "reject this nomination and challenge the administration to appoint a more suitable and less controversial nominee to set the tone of our public health policy."

He has dealt with the issues of teen pregnancy, adolescent sexuality, unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases throughout his medical career, Coburn said.

"I have told 40-year-old parents that their daughter was going to die of AIDS. I have counseled grandparents as they've held their 6-year-old grandchild dying of AIDS. I know exactly these issues," he said with a voice which cracked with apparent emotion.

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While Coburn said he also disagreed with Foster on some care issues and the abortion issue, he testified in order to address the need to teach sexual abstinence.

Coburn, who represents Oklahoma's second congressional district, is a member of First Baptist Church of Muskogee and teaches an adult Sunday school in the church upon his weekly return to the district.

The nomination of Foster, also an ob/gyn, has been surrounded by controversy over such issues as how many abortions he has performed and his "I Have a Future" teen program, which offers condoms and abstinence as options to avoid pregnancy.

While Coburn was the only House of Representatives member to speak against Foster's confirmation, Rep. Louis Stokes, D.-Ohio, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and Rep. Nita Lowey, D.-N.Y., co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, testified in support of the nominee.

The committee is expected to vote on Foster within three weeks.

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Bill introduced blocking
porn on basic cable TV

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
5/8/95

WASHINGTON (BP)--A new bill in the U.S. House of Representatives will require cable television operators to offer basic subscription packages which do not include channels offering pornographic material.

The Family Viewing Cable Television Act (H.R. 1540), introduced by Rep. Tony Hall, D.-Ohio, will not affect premium or pay-per-view channels, since cable subscribers have the option of not receiving those channels. The legislation targets any cable operator who knowingly transmits depictions of "sexual or excretory activities or organs" in "terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards." The penalties include a maximum prison sentence of two years and fines.

In some locations, such as Texas and New York, cable subscribers must receive channels showing pornographic material in order to have a basic package, according to the National Law Center, a Northern Virginia-based organization which specializes in pornography related cases.

"This is a matter of rights -- the rights of cable subscribers to keep indecent programming off their television sets and out of reach of their children," Hall said in a prepared statement. "If you want cable television, in some places you have to take the sleazy channels along with Mr. Rogers and Big Bird.

"I'm not trying to tell people what they can and can't watch. I'm just trying to give parents the right to make their television safe for family viewing."

The legislation is expected to test whether the regulation of the broadcasting of indecent material, approved by the U.S. Supreme Court, extends to cable television.

"If the government can regulate a package of rotten pork, it can regulate a package of rotten porn," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"This bill is about family friendly packaging of cable channels. It is not a substantial burden on cable providers but is a reasonable commercial regulation."

The bill was introduced May 2, with Rep. Christopher Smith, R.-N.J., as co-sponsor.

Last fall, the Christian Life Commission named Hall the recipient of its annual Distinguished Christian Service Award.

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Baptist schoolteacher models
mission giving in life, death

By Mark Kelly

BURGAW, N.C. (BP)--Mary Taylor cared more about others than she did herself.

The daughter of a Southern Baptist preacher, Taylor never married. Instead, she devoted her life to her church and community.

But more than anything else, she devoted herself to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world -- in life and in death.

"Mary Taylor was a very gentle lady who had a real compassion for people," said Francis Chesson, pastor of Burgaw (N.C.) Baptist Church, where Taylor was an active member for most of her adult life. "She wanted us to be sensitive to the physical and spiritual needs of people here in our own back yard, but she also always held our feet to the fire as far as missions was concerned."

Taylor's first love was children. Her small, wood-frame, white house stood just a block from the Burgaw school, where she taught first grade for about 40 years. Her door always was open to neighborhood children who wanted to visit or play a board game.

"Mary loved children. You could see it in the way she spoke to them," said Margaret Harrell, her next-door neighbor and longtime friend. "Occasionally, she would give the children's sermon at church. They would just sit there spellbound and listen to her."

When mandatory retirement forced her to leave the classroom in 1969, Taylor devoted her time to the community. She delivered meals to the homebound, taught in a literacy program sponsored by the Wilmington Baptist Association and volunteered at the local hospital. There she ran errands, gave directions and did other chores even when her own health began to fail.

Taylor also cared about principle and conscience, Gary Trawick, her attorney and executor of her estate, told the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, a recipient of her generosity over the years.

She gave up income from a building leased to a grocery store -- refusing to renew the lease -- when its management decided to sell alcohol. She was one of the first teachers to volunteer for service in a black school when North Carolina schools were integrated in the 1960s. And when she remembered an injustice she had committed against a student, she ran a public apology in the newspaper -- even though the slight was 60 years old.

She also paid for a standing newspaper ad that read: "Anyone wanting to know how to become a Christian, contact Mary Taylor." Over the years, the ad grew larger.

Perhaps the most striking thing about Taylor, however, was her love of missions.

"Mary always wanted the church to do the right thing when it came to missions," Chesson said. "She was always encouraging us to increase the missions budget and the missions offerings."

In fact, Taylor refused herself basic necessities so she could have money to meet mission needs, said another neighbor, Jewell Harrell.

"Mary loved mission work, and did without, so she could give to missions," Harrell said. "She wouldn't spend money on her house; the door swung large enough you could throw a cat through it. She went around with holes in her shoes, but she kept a metal box with money in it for gifts to others."

If the church wasn't meeting its goal for a mission offering, she always gave extra to reach it. When a young woman in the church couldn't afford to take a volunteer mission trip to Brazil, Taylor wrote a check to pay her airfare and expenses.

Despite her modest means, Taylor gave \$27,000 to the Foreign Mission Board in the last 10 years of her life. Those gifts were above and beyond her tithe and local offerings.

And when she died one week short of her 89th birthday more than a year ago, her friends and family weren't surprised to discover she left her entire estate -- about \$115,000 -- to Southern Baptist mission work in Mexico.

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"I'm constantly gratified by the number of people who include the Foreign Mission Board in their wills," said David Coleman, FMB director of development. "And I'm humbled by the lifestyle they live to fulfill the commitments they have made to the Lord. Mary Taylor lived simply and sacrificed her own comforts to provide more money for the Lord's work."

Although no decision has been made about how the entire gift will be used, some of the money will meet one urgent need for video projectors, said Joe Bruce, FMB administrator for work in Middle America.

In rural areas of Mexico, video projectors can be used effectively to share the gospel for the first time with large groups. Mexican Baptists hope to start 2,000 new churches by the year 2000, and 10 video projectors would greatly help them reach that goal, Bruce said.

But at \$4,000 apiece, the technology had been out of reach. Taylor's gift will offer thousands of Mexicans their first opportunity to hear the gospel and will help start many new churches, he said.

Bequests like Taylor's also can be placed in an endowment fund, Coleman said. The interest earned each year is applied to mission needs, and the original gift keeps on giving indefinitely.

Like many other Southern Baptists, Mary Taylor loved missions, Coleman said. "Because it was so important to her, she provided through her will so her giving could go on beyond her lifetime. Her gift will meet needs for generations to come."

Coleman's office provides resources for people who want to include mission causes in their wills. For more information, call 1-800-362-1322.

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(BP) photo (mugshot) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Outline available on SBCNet News Room.

CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Lea elected SWBTS theology dean; trustees reduce '95-'96 budget," dated 5/4/95, Ted Cabal's name was omitted from new faculty. Please substitute the 6th paragraph from the end with the following graph:

The trustees also approved the addition of four new faculty members: Robert Garrett Jr. as professor of missions; John Babler as assistant professor of social work; Howard G. Aultman as associate professor of music theory; and Ted Cabal, assistant professor of philosophy of religion. Elected to faculty status was music librarian Fang-Lan Hsieh.

Thanks,
Baptist Press
