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September 15, 1995

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NORTH CAROLINA--Presidential hopeful stops at Southeastern Seminary.
TENNESSEE--CLC trustees elect Dodson; O.K. radio and cyberporn initiatives.
DALLAS--Christian educators, ethicists deplore public school bashing.
BEIJING--CLC rep and other pro-lifers regain credentials at Beijing.
TENNESSEE--Teen marijuana use soaring; Christian helps available.
ZIMBABWE--All-Africa Games off to a running start in Zimbabwe.
TOGO--Rains destroy churches, homes, food in Togo.

**Presidential hopeful stops
at Southeastern Seminary**

By Dwayne Hastings

Baptist Press
9/15/95

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Presidential candidate Alan Keyes made a surprise stop at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, breaking off his campaign schedule in North Carolina to visit the Wake Forest, N.C., school Sept. 14.

"There are so many people who think we are going to build material success in America by what we do with the taxes and what we do with the budget and what we do with the structure of government," said Keyes, a Republican presidential hopeful and former ambassador to the U.N. Economic and Social Council. He suggested the only lasting solution rests not in human institutions nor money, "but how right we are with God."

Keyes, who served in the U.S. foreign service and on the staff of the National Security Council during the Reagan administration, said, "We can see a destiny marked out now on the streets of our cities abounding in violence, the hearts of our young people turned aside from the real principles of self discipline and moral truth."

He said many Americans no longer understand freedom as something that involves the recognition of our submission to the will and authority of God. "Without respect for God and fear of God and submission to the authority of God, freedom is not a blessing, it is a curse," Keyes stressed.

It is easy, Keyes said, to say within the walls of a church that without God this nation will perish: "But where we need to carry that message right now is to other platforms where this word hasn't been heard in a long time because even people who say that they cherish it in their hearts have been unwilling to bring it to public platforms."

Keyes, who holds a Ph.D. in government from Harvard University, was introduced by Southeastern President Paige Patterson, who reminded the Binkley Chapel audience the seminary does not endorse people for public office: "Any presidential candidate who wants to come here and speak to us is as welcome as he can be."

Keyes later addressed students at St. Augustine's College, a historically black school in Raleigh, N.C., where the Raleigh News & Observer reported Keyes said economics and racism do not explain the breakdown of families in the black community.

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Keyes, uniquely positioned in the race for the White House as a conservative African American, said in an interview at Southwestern: "While many government programs are 'having a tremendously adverse impact on the moral character of the country, those out there are trying to pretend somehow or another it's appropriate in the political arena to only discuss the money and the economics and the budget structure.'"

Recalling a dominant theme of his campaign, Keyes said, "The overriding issue is abortion, which involves the way we look at human life, but also involves our fundamental principles of justice and where they come from."

These issues, Keyes said, are indicative of the decline in the nation's moral identity: "I don't see anyway you can escape these issues and yet the other candidates who are involved in the race seem to want to talk about everything but these issues."

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CLC trustees elect Dodson; O.K.
radio and cyberporn initiatives By Bill Merrell

Baptist Press
9/15/95

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--During their annual board meeting SBC Christian Life Commissioners unanimously approved Will Dodson as associate general counsel and director of government relations. Other business included the adoption of a record ministry budget for the agency, including funds for a pilot radio program to address moral, ethical, and religious liberty issues.

Dodson begins his duties in the Washington offices of the CLC Jan. 15. He replaces James A. Smith, director of government relations for the past six years who resigned to pursue seminary studies. Smith was recognized following the board meeting for his contributions to public affairs on behalf of Southern Baptists in the nation's capital.

Dodson, 39, received his undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, and his law degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas. His law career includes service as briefing attorney for the Eleventh Court of Appeals of Texas, assistant district attorney, and eight and a half years as judge, county court-at-law for Lubbock County, Texas. Following a personal spiritual pilgrimage began two years ago, he resigned his position and entered Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary this summer preparing for the goal of God's call to full-time Christian service.

Dodson said he had a very strong sense God wanted him to serve in the area of Christianity and public policy.

"For about two years the Lord has been preparing my heart and that of my wife to invest our lives in Christian service," he said. "I have a great admiration and respect for Dr. Land and the work of the CLC, and am excited to work together with him and the CLC staff for the Southern Baptist Convention. Our views are consistent with his and those of our SBC family."

Dodson and Denise, his wife of 10 years, have two children; Allison, 7, and Andrew, 4.

CLC executive director Richard Land described the circumstances of his original meeting with Dodson about one year ago as both providential and humbling.

"At the time, neither of us could have had an inkling of what the Lord was preparing to do in Judge Dodson's life or that of the Christian Life Commission. We have both been humbled by the way in which the Holy Spirit has worked to bring about His will."

In other business, the board approved a 1995-96 operating budget in the amount of \$1,758,520, a record amount. Included were program funds to initiate a pilot radio broadcast addressing moral, ethical, and religious liberty issues from a Southern Baptist perspective. Land said "We are tremendously excited about this opportunity to share the CLC's message on the moral and public policy issues confronting our nation with several million Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christians on a weekly basis."

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Trustees also voted to award the 1996 Distinguished Service Award to Jerry Kirk. The award for Kirk, founder and president of the National Coalition Against Pornography, was proposed in recognition of his leadership and courage in the fight against pornography. N-CAP is an alliance of representatives of numerous citizen action groups, foundations and religious denominations. It is an educational, resource and special action group which opposes illegal pornography. The hard-core pornographic material N-CAP fights often involves graphic or violent subordination, exploitation, degradation or humiliation -- especially of women and children.

In his report to the commissioners, Land described the necessity of Southern Baptists weighing in on the moral and ethical concerns raised by the presence of obscene materials available on the internet.

"Today America faces a grave threat to its future moral well-being. That threat is cyberporn -- grotesque obscenity -- which is accessible across the length and breadth of our land through the various on-line computer networks which reach into ever-increasing millions of our homes each year. We are faced with an almost invisible, subterranean, electronic river of pornographic slime which threatens our nation's basic moral fabric. This is extremely dangerous, morally radioactive material."

He continued, "According to the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, rapists and sex offenders are 15 times as likely as non-offenders to have had exposure to 'hard core' pornography during childhood or between six and ten years old. Christianity Today disclosed that a recent University of New Hampshire study clearly demonstrated a higher rape rate in states with broader availability of pornographic material. This terrible threat to our children's and our nation's well-being must be stopped now, before it inundates our culture with its moral and spiritual evil."

Trustees enthusiastically endorsed initiatives addressing the concern. Production of video and CD formatted materials dealing with cyberporn are to be produced within the year.

In other business, the title for the top staff officer of the CLC was changed from executive director to president and chief executive officer. The change is intended to bring the terminology more into line with other SBC entities, and more clearly reflect appropriate organizational structure of the CLC, according to Gary Ledbetter, chairman of the board.

In other business, the CLC national seminar was approved to be held in Charleston, S.C., in 1998.

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Christian educators, ethicists
deplore public school bashing

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
9/15/95

DALLAS (BP)--Unjustified political bashing of public schools was deplored in Dallas this week at a meeting of Christian educators and ethicists from across the country.

Participants in the Maston Colloquium on "The Crisis in Public Education" repudiated "slanderous attacks that are being made on public schools.

"The frenzied bashing of public schools has obscured the fact that American public education is more successful than it has ever been," according to a colloquium document endorsed by a number of religious and educational leaders.

They included Herbert Reynolds, chancellor, Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Tyrone S. Pitts, Washington, general secretary, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.; Elenora Giddings Ivory, director of the Washington Office, Presbyterian Church, USA; and Albert M. Pennybacker, president of ecumenical development initiative of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches, New York.

Foy Valentine, Dallas, president of the Center for Christian Ethics which sponsored the conference, declined to name the critics of public schools.

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"We choose not to bash the bashers," Valentine said. "They are a diverse lot with one thing in common -- a clear vested interest. Some want government money for their parochial or private schools, some demonize the public schools because they want their alarmist attacks to scare people into coughing up even bigger contributions for their Goebbels-like programs of demagoguery. For instance, one radio business entrepreneur took in \$155 million last year.

"And some are partners as often unwittingly as wittingly in a scarily sinister scheme, first to roll back school taxes and then abolish tax-supported public education altogether.

"They envision a nifty way to save money, wash their hands of responsibility for teaching poor children and enhance the elitism which favors the rich and privileged."

Participants in the colloquium included world renowned church historian Edwin Gaustad, California; professor/author Franklin Littell, Pennsylvania; Valentine; Frosty Troy, editor of the Oklahoma Observer; Sarah Frances Anders, sociologist/educator, Louisiana; author Richard Pierard, professor at Indiana State University; public school administrator Kenneth Williams, Dallas; and James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington.

In support of public schools they emphasized:

-- The dropout rate last year was only 11 percent, lowest in the history of public education and marked the 11th straight year that the dropout rate has declined;

-- Test scores of students in public schools have risen for three consecutive years despite the fact that the U.S. ranks 14th among the 16 major industrial nations in spending per student for public education;

-- American public schools graduate a higher percentage of students from high school, send a higher percentage to college and graduate a higher percentage from college than any other country; and

-- A majority of public school teachers and other educators under attack are faithful church members, Sunday school teachers and "members of our own families."

The success of public school schools, said the group, "is a tribute to the dedication of our public school teachers and other educators who far too often are the targets of unjustified political bashing.

"The historical record shows that Christians, who were largely responsible for the creation and support of public education, are still intimately involved in it every day."

Noting last year public schools enrolled 43.5 million students, the largest number in history, the group said, "Our greatest national resource has been and still is our young people. Every generation requires a shared experience. Where else could this be found except in our common schools."

"Of course, there are problems with the public schools," Valentine said. "We favor facing the problems and fixing things that need fixing and correcting things that need correcting. The bottom line is that we are concerned Christian citizens who believe in public schools."

Genuine patriotism calls for strengthening, not weakening public education, the colloquium stated.

"We retrench at the nation's peril. Only one generation of retreat would destroy this priceless resource that binds us together as people.

"As concerned Christians, we commend the churches, businesses, unions, civic clubs, volunteers, and most importantly the parents who are involved in positive support of the public schools.

"We applaud those congregations who provide training for volunteers, after-school activities for latch-key kids, supervised study, mentoring by senior citizens, and encouragement for parents to become involved in the education of their children. We affirm those public school backers who vigilantly monitor and report the voting records of legislators, school boards and other elected officials."

Calling on fellow Christians to enlist in a truthful and vigorous battle for the future of American youth, the group emphasized, "We believe in public money for public schools and private money for private schools."

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EDITORS' NOTE: This is an update of (BP) article titled "CLC rep meets with U.S. delegates," dated 9/13/95, and should be substituted for it.

CLC rep and other pro-lifers
regain credentials at Beijing

Baptist Press
9/15/95

BEIJING (BP)--Southern Baptist Nancy Schaefer and six other women representing pro-family/pro-life organizations at the World Conference on Women regained their credentials Sept. 14 as the controversial United Nations-sponsored meeting neared its conclusion.

Before the conference closed Sept. 15 in China's capital, the term "sexual orientation," a focus of much debate, was removed from the Platform for Action, the lengthy document produced from the meeting.

At the close of a Sept. 12 afternoon press briefing by the official United States delegation, Schaefer, representing the SBC Christian Life Commission, and the other women silently raised a banner which read "U.S. Delegation Ignores Pro-family U.S. Women." A United Nations security guard escorted them to a holding room, where he confiscated their credentials, took photographs of the badges and instructed the women to return the next morning, Schaefer said in a written statement.

The women did not receive their badges Sept. 13, however. Instead, the women were told more time was needed before their badges could be returned, said a staff member of an Atlanta-based ministry, Family Concerns Inc., founded by Schaefer. They were told to return to the Beijing International Convention Center Sept. 14 to receive their badges.

Because Schaefer did not have her credentials Sept. 13, she remained in her hotel about four blocks from the convention center.

On the morning of Sept. 14, Schaefer and others were escorted by a friend with credentials to the convention center, where they received their badges.

Schaefer, who is a CLC trustee, and the other women decided to unfurl a banner after they were dissatisfied with the U.S. delegation's agenda and its response to pro-family concerns expressed in a Sept. 11 meeting attended by Schaefer and three others representing pro-life/pro-family organizations.

On behalf of 21 organizations, Schaefer had written a letter Sept. 8 to Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. and head of the U.S. delegation, asking for a meeting. Among the groups signing the letter were Focus on the Family, Eagle Forum, Concerned Women for America, American Life League and the National Association of Evangelicals.

The U.S. delegation informed Schaefer about 90 minutes beforehand that she and others could meet with some of its members Sept. 11. Tom Minnery of Focus on the Family, Diane Knippers of the Institute on Religion and Democracy and Ellen Lucas of the International Catholic Organizations Center joined Schaefer in the meeting. They met with nine members of the delegation, including Veronica Biggins, vice chair, and Melinda Kimble, head of the negotiating team. Albright had returned to the United States.

In the 30-minute meeting, the four pro-family/pro-life representatives expressed concern the delegation was promoting such things as abortion, the funding of RU 486 (the French abortion pill), the redefinition of the family and the undermining of parental rights. They also challenged the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the Platform for Action as a status deserving of protection.

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The U.S. delegation defended the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the document and opposed efforts to define it, Knippers said in a written statement. The delegation also resisted defining family and said homosexual marriages had not been discussed, Knippers said.

"When I left the office of the U.S. delegation, the words ringing in my ears were: 'We don't define terms,'" said Schaefer, a member of First Baptist Church, Atlanta. "If they don't define terms, how can they possibly expect 186 nations to join in signing onto their concepts unless these countries are going to be bullied into accepting it by linking their approval to financial aid?"

The women decided to make a banner to communicate their message to the media. It was made of a sheet, construction paper, pins, needle and thread, Schaefer said. Several members of the press interviewed the women after they were released from the holding room, she said.

The women believe the confiscation and withholding of their credentials "was merely an effort to silence the conservative voice," Schaefer said in a prepared statement. "It is our belief that if common-sense Americans knew what the U.S. delegation is proposing for the women and children of the United States and unsuspecting and aid-dependent countries around the world, they would be outraged."

U.N. security failed to halt a protest by lesbians who shouted and unfurled banners at another meeting, according to a report by Family News in Focus, a radio network of Focus on the Family.

Among the other women whose credentials were confiscated were Wanda Miller, Schaefer's assistant at Family Concerns; Karen McNeil of Life Choices Inc., a pro-life ministry in Memphis, Tenn., and Brenda Alexander, also of Memphis, representing Black Americans for Life. The other three women reportedly represented Eagle Forum, CWA and True Majority.

Led by the efforts of delegations from the European Union, Canada and the United States, the Platform for Action includes a number of statements which are opposed by pro-family/pro-life organizations.

Language including "sexual orientation" as a class deserving protection against discrimination was removed from the document early on the conference's final day. More than 30 countries objected to removing the protection for homosexuals, bisexuals and transsexuals, according to a Sept. 15 report in The New York Times. Among the proponents of retaining "sexual orientation" were the United States, Israel and South Africa, the Times reported.

One of the approved sections asserts a wife's right to refuse to have sexual relations with her husband, according to the Times.

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Compiled by Tom Strode.

Teen marijuana use soaring;
Christian helps available By Art Toalston & Chip Alford

Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The bad news is that marijuana use among teen-agers has nearly doubled since 1992, according to a federal study released Sept 12.

The good news is that Christian resource materials are available to concerned parents.

According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, marijuana use among teens rose to 7.3 percent in 1994 -- up from 4 percent in 1992. Another key finding: The number of teens who believe marijuana is risky fell from 50 percent to 42 percent during the same period.

"On impetus behind the increase of marijuana use is Generation X's romance with the 1960s," observed C. Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "The popular culture magnifies it without showing its devastating effects."

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Mitchell described marijuana as "more d c itful than alcohol. THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) stays in the body for about a month after each use. It builds up in the brain and leads to learning difficulties, memory loss and difficulty thinking in general. Physically, marijuana can damage the heart and lungs, negatively affect athletic ability and cause other problems. Of course, since it is a hallucinogen, it creates the same hazards while driving as alcohol."

Marijuana may not be physically addictive, but a tolerance for the drug builds up, requiring larger amounts to produce the same high, wrote John Long in "Marijuana is Still Here," cover article in the August 1995 issue of "Youth Ministry Update," a monthly newsletter for youth ministers/leaders published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"And it does produce a definite psychological dependency," Long, an associate in the Alabama Baptists' discipleship training department, wrote.

Marijuana, along with tobacco and alcohol, are "gateway drugs" which can lead to more serious drug use, Long noted.

He quoted from an Oct. 27, 1994, study released by Columbia University's Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse showing that youth age 12-17 who use:

- any gateway drug are 3.5 times more likely to use cocaine;
- any two gateway drugs are 17.2 times more likely to use cocaine;
- all three gateway drugs are 266.3 times more likely to use cocaine.

Teens are going to "model what they see," said Paul Turner, a design editor of youth products in the BSSB discipleship and family development division, whether from observing parents, peers or messages through the media.

An important key to avoiding serious substance abuse problems among youth is open and honest communication between parents and teens, Turner said.

"The worst thing a parent can do is ignore what's going on," he said. "If they expect something, they need to approach their teen-ager and talk about it."

Turner said the Sunday School Board has been addressing the problem of teen drug use "for several years and in some pretty up-front ways."

He specifically mentioned these products: "Killers: Alcohol and Other Drugs," a seven-session biblically based study; "Help! Peer Pressure" and "Fake Answers," 13-session Bible studies with suggestions for parents' meetings; "Trauma Center Plus," a youth issues portfolio with a variety of learning methods and practical helps; "Setting You Free to Make Right Choices," an eight-session study linked with Josh McDowell's "Right From Wrong" campaign; and "The Search," a 15-session study which guides youth to a biblically based self-esteem. Volume one of "The 24-Hour Counselor," a series of audiocassettes produced by the board, also deals with drug use.

From the Christian Life Commission, available resources are "Hard Facts About Alcohol and Other Drugs;" "Issues & Answers: Drug Abuse;" and, from the CLC's Christian Life Style for Youth series, pamphlets titled "Drugs" and "Christian Values."

To inquire about ordering the materials, call the Sunday School Board at 1-800-458-2772 and the Christian Life Commission at (615) 244-2495.

Also, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is targeting drug abuse through its "One Way 2 Play--Drug Free!" national campaign.

The FCA materials, using a peer-support approach, are available to FCA groups at more than 5,300 junior and senior high, college and university campuses -- as well as churches and other organizations.

FCA can be reached at 1-800-289-0909.

The FCA effort was fueled by a 1990 survey of 122,000 coaches, in which 82 percent of the leaders listed drug and alcohol abuse as the greatest challenge student athletes face.

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The FCA campaign includes a written commitment sheet for youth to sign in pledging to remain drug- and alcohol-free -- a commitment similar to cards teens sign in the BSSB "True Love Waits" campaign pledging sexual abstinence until marriage. In the FCA effort, peers also use a raised index finger pointing skyward, similar to a "We're No. 1" gesture, to remind each other of their commitment.

Other facets of the effort, for example, include visits by FCA athletes at Baptist-affiliated Carson-Newman College in Tennessee in about 20 area high schools to help steer youth away from drug abuse.

The FCA campaign is undergirded by a "One Way 2 Play--Drug Free!" book featuring testimonies from such athletes as David Robinson of San Antonio's NBA Spurs and Jay Barker, record-setting University of Alabama quarterback.

Robinson, for example, wrote, "My life wouldn't be nearly as prosperous" had he ever used drugs or alcohol. He urged young people to "wake up and see the effects of alcohol and drugs on other people. What makes you think you are different or stronger than the next guy, and that it's not going to hurt you? Don't be stupid!"

Other resources in the FCA campaign were assembled with assistance from Houston-based Rapha Treatment Centers for psychiatric and substance abuse treatment.

Said Mitchell, "Churches must help warn youth about the hazards of marijuana use. They must teach young people to honor biblical values. Churches must also provide an alternative culture of acceptance and nurture. Drugs are like clouds with no rain. They promise to make you feel better about yourself, but they cannot deliver on the promise. Only a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ satisfies our need to be loved for who we are."

Giving suggestions to youth ministers -- most of which would be applicable to parents -- Long in his newsletter wrote:

- Don't ignore the situation and hope it will go away. Be proactive with your youth group.
- Get current information so you can intelligently discuss the problem with your youth.
- Establish and enforce clear and consistent rules for behavior within the context of the youth group.
- Involve all your teachers and leaders in the information of the problem, the care, and intervention of the youth of your church;
- Form a support group of parents and teens who have a substance abuse problem;
- Pray for your youth each and every day.

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EDITORS' NOTE: The Richmond bureau of Baptist Press will provide coverage and photos of the All-Africa Games after its close.

All-Africa Games off to a
running start in Zimbabwe

By Kim Davis

Baptist Press
9/15/95

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP)--About 6,000 athletes from 49 African countries converged on the cities of Harare and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Sept. 11 for the sixth All-Africa Games, a preliminary event to the 1996 Centennial Olympics in Atlanta.

Southern Baptist volunteers, African Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries also showed up to minister among athletes, sports personnel and spectators via evangelistic materials, sports medicine, sports clinics, transportation and media.

Baptists have been on the "inside" of preparations for the event through International Sports Federation (ISF) in partnership with the Foreign Mission Board and in cooperation with the organizing committee of the games, which end Sept. 23.

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Packets distributed to welcome the athletes included items to commemorate the event, such as a sports New Testament, ISF lapel pin, cup, writing pen and cassette tape featuring African Christian music and testimonies.

Many participating countries have "limited access" to the gospel.

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Kim Davis is a Southern Baptist missionary to South Africa.

Rains destroy churches,
homes, food in Togo

By Patsy Eitelman

Baptist Press
9/15/95

SOKODE, Togo (BP)--Unrelenting torrents in central Togo are melting mud homes and churches, and washing away crops and granaries.

Most affected are refugees who fled their farms during political upheaval in this west African nation and resettled on a game reserve earlier this decade. They had rebuilt their lives by building new homes and churches, clearing land and planting crops.

In the heavy downpours, four Baptist churches have fallen in, injuring five people. The village of Abidjande was wiped out when its mud huts collapsed.

In 1992 Foreign Mission Board missionaries and Togolese Baptists provided grain to these refugees until their first crops came in. Two years later Baptists helped feed some 1,300 orphans among the refugees until the government took over the project.

This is the wettest rainy season in 10 years. Many of those who have lost their homes and crops are Baptist believers.

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Patsy Eitelman is a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionary in Togo.

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