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Permanent Relief Fund
Set Up By Home Board

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ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has set aside \$50,000 as a permanent relief fund to assist churches and pastors in areas hit by earthquakes, floods, or other such disasters.

The board's donation last fall to hurricane-damaged churches in Louisiana will be considered the first action under the new permanent disaster relief fund, Fred B. Moseley of Atlanta, assistant executive secretary of the board, said.

"We hope to build this fund up to \$250,000," he said. "When withdrawals are made at the time of emergency, we hope to replenish the fund to a great extent with gifts from individuals and churches wanting to have a part in meeting the emergency."

The fund was established at the request of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Moseley said, which became increasingly concerned after Hurricane Betsy struck the Gulf Coast.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has complied with a similar request for overseas disaster relief.

In July 1965, the SBC Home Mission Board forwarded \$2,500 to the Riverside Baptist Church in Denver to assist in the restoration of a building damaged by floods.

Other such actions include aid to churches in Alaska damaged by earthquakes and Appalachian area churches marred by floods.

More than \$143,000 was given last fall to Louisiana Baptists by Baptist associations, churches and individuals. The Home Mission Board designated \$25,000 of its gift to assist pastors and mission workers who lost property or income not covered by insurance.

Out of the \$193,000 total given to ease the blow in Louisiana, \$30,500 went to pastors and mission workers; the remainder was used to repair or to replace church property and equipment.

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25 Preachers Launch
Crusade in Alaska

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ATLANTA (BP)--A two-week simultaneous revival crusade will get under way in 33 Alaska Baptist churches on April 17.

Twenty-five Baptist preachers from 13 states will be preaching during the campaign, which will be under the direction of John F. Havlik, associate director in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of evangelism.

In addition to the 25 evangelists enlisted by the Home Mission Board, several of the Alaskan churches have secured their own evangelists.

Seven of the preachers will be in Fairbanks churches, seven in Anchorage churches. Other revival sites include: Juneau, Spenard, Palmer, Valdez, and Ketchikan.

The Alaska Baptist Convention, which was organized in 1946, has three associations, each of which has participated in planning the crusade.

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NOTE to Baptist State Paper Editors: List of crusade participants from your state being sent to you separately.

EDITORS: Here is a new lead on the Layne Lectures at New Orleans Seminary by Carlyle Marney. Use to replace, or as a topper, for story mailed March 30 (page 4 of mailing), headlined Marney Says Man Must Have Concept of God.

Baptist Pastor Praises
Catholic Marriage Ruling

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A Baptist pastor from North Carolina, speaking at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, praised Pope Paul's ruling on Protestant-Catholic marriages, saying it has liberalized marriage requirements that have long been barriers between Protestants and Catholics.

Carlyle Marney, pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, N. C., said that "non-Catholic parents are no longer required to swear their rights away," and they are now "recognized as religious persons too."

Marney, speaking during the Layne Lectures at New Orleans Seminary, hailed the ruling as "a step toward more open religious freedom."

The North Carolina pastor also praised the Vatican Council II meeting, calling it "the most remarkable demonstration of life that a major religious body has shown in over a century."

"It also showed that there might be hope for some half-dead Protestant groups," he said.

Marney added he felt the most immediate helpful result of the Vatican Council was the opening of thousands of local conversations between Catholics and Protestants.

He termed very important Catholic studies on the role of laymen, and the work of Catholics on Biblical theology and the willingness of the Catholics to use Protestant experts.

Marney, author of several books and a contributing editor to Christian Century magazine, was pastor of First Baptist Church in Austin, Tex., before going to the North Carolina church.

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Southwestern Students
Launch "Penetration"

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FORT WORTH (BP)--"Pioneer Penetration", an effort to put seminary students on fields of sparse Baptist work to lead churches in revival meetings, has been launched at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

More than 100 students have applied to participate in the spring revivals in Colorado, Nebraska, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, and West Virginia, according to Roy Fish, associate professor of evangelism here and director of the project.

Traveling expenses to and from the pioneer Baptist areas are underwritten by the Panhandle Baptist Foundation, Inc., and independent organization established to support world-wide missions.

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Baylor President Named
Lawyer Award Recipient

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WACO, Tex., (BP)--Baylor University President Abner V. McCall has been named recipient of the fourth annual Baylor Lawyer of the Year award.

The award is presented by the Baylor Law Alumni Association to an outstanding law graduate of the university.

"We think that no Baylor law graduate has made a better contribution to his country, state, city, church and school than has president McCall," said Dow Heard of Houston, president of the alumni association and chairman of the selection committee for the award. The committee included the past three presidents of the alumni association.

McCall, who received his bachelor of arts and bachelor of law degrees from Baylor in 1938, is a former dean of the Baylor School of Law and an associate justice of the Supreme Court of Texas.

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"President McCall joins a distinguished and worthy group of those who have won the award in the past: Judge A. J. Folley, Leon Jaworski and Price Daniel," Heard said.

McCall will receive his award at a banquet climaxing Baylor Law Day. Heard will make the presentation. Speaker at the banquet will be Edward W. Kuhn of Memphis, Tenn., president of the American Bar Association.

McCall has been Baylor University president since 1961.

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Hearings Held On Major
Church-State Court Case

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ANNAPOLIS, Md. (BP)--The issue of whether state aid to church-related colleges is aid to religion was warmly debated in a major test case before the Maryland Court of Appeals here.

Final arguments were heard in the appeal of the Horace Mann League of the United States of America and 13 Maryland residents from a lower court ruling that such aid is constitutional.

Attorneys for both sides said they expected an appellate decision in seven or eight weeks. Whichever way the appeals court decides, the case is sure to be taken to the United States Supreme Court for final judgment.

The Court of Appeals heard arguments supporting and opposing a 1965 Circuit Court decision ruling that direct grants totalling \$2½ million by the Maryland legislature to four church-related liberal arts colleges in the state were "valid" and "constitutional."

The grants went to two Catholic schools, the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore, and St. Joseph College in Emmittsburg, Md.; to Western Maryland College (Methodist) in Westminster, Md.; and to Hood College, affiliated with the United Church of Christ, in Frederick, Md.

An adverse decision in the case could ultimately affect millions of dollars in state and federal grants to similar institutions throughout the country.

Major argument on behalf of the colleges was delivered by William L. Marbury, who maintained that the four schools are liberal arts colleges, not seminaries.

"Laying aside courses in theology and one or two courses in philosophy at some of the colleges," he asserted, "what is taught and how it is taught are exactly the same" at state-supported colleges and universities in Maryland.

"The notion that these courses are colored or permeated by religion simply doesn't stand up," argued Marbury.

Leo Pfeffer, chief counsel for the appellants, countered that it is "fantastic" to think that a college could be divided into halves, one of which teaches religion and the other which teaches science and the liberal arts.

Pfeffer conceded that the grants in question were not "aid to religion in the narrow sense," but maintained that they did aid "religious, sectarian, church-related institutions."

He stated that the four colleges involved "are in business to advance religion. That's what their catalogues say."

Pfeffer argued that the central point in the case "is that the First Amendment (of the United State Constitution) forbids government aid to religion."

Arguments also centered around an earlier ruling by the Circuit Court that the Horace Mann League, an organization of public school administrators, has "no standing to sue." The Circuit Court did, however, grant the "standing to sue" right of the 13 taxpayers.

Attorneys for the colleges contested even the taxpayer's standing, while attorneys for the appellants argued that the Horace Mann League should be reinstated.

The technical question of standing could be crucial, observers said, because it could influence at a later stage the U.S. Supreme Court's willingness to review the appellate decision.

Dyal To Evaluate Peace
Corps Venezuela Effort

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NASHVILLE (BP)--William M. Dyal Jr., director of organization for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, has departed on a three weeks' tour of Venezuela to evaluate the effectiveness of the Peace Corps efforts in that country.

Peace Corps officials in Washington extended the invitation to Dyal, requesting him to evaluate the total Peace Corps program in Venezuela with a view toward correcting their shortcomings, projecting new programs, and determining the success of the current efforts.

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission meeting here earlier had voted approval of Dyal's making the study and evaluation.

Dyal for nine years was a Southern Baptist missionary to Guatemala and Costa Rica, and also was field representative for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's efforts in Southern Latin America, including Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, and Uruguay.

In Venezuela, he will make studies of the Peace Corps efforts in 12 cities and towns where the Peace Corps has 320 volunteers.

He will interview the volunteers, Peace Corps administrative staff members, government officials, and employees of Venezuelan governmental organizations with which the Peace Corps works.

Dyal said he expects to return April 24.