

March 29, 1949

BAPTIST RELIEF PACKAGES  
REACH YUGOSLAVIA

By Baptist Press

Information reaching Baptist relief agencies in the United States reveals that relief packages addressed to Anton Balog in Yugoslavia have been reaching needy families within the Russian area of Europe.

After many indications had come that American parcels sent behind the Iron Curtain endangered the lives of addressees, this information was welcomed. The parcels should be sent to Anton Balog, Brace Ribnikara 41, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. They should be marked "Gift - Pavlon - G.L.V.," and no remark should be made about need or requests for help.

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MISSIONARY "BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN"  
TESTIFIES THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--A Southern Baptist missionary couple behind the Iron Curtain in Europe is grateful for answered prayer.

Officials at the Baptist Foreign Mission Board here declined to give names or location because of possible dangers to Baptist work described, but they did make public the basic content of the letter telling the story.

"When The Commission arrived, we noticed that you had been praying for us and we recall that on that designated day we had been saved from the greatest danger that came on our recent tour," wrote the woman, speaking of her husband and herself.

"The president (or mayor, we would say) was a communist, of course, and a former swineherdsman. The secretary of the village was formerly a shepherd. When the pastor of the church asked if \_\_\_\_\_ could speak, he was forbidden to do so.

"That night many people came to the service to hear the American speak but all we could do was sit on a platform at the front of the room facing the congregation while a pastor from a near-by village preached. We did stand at the door and speak to the people as they left.

"The next day we were told that the whole village was angry because visitors had come all the way from the States and had been forbidden to speak. During the morning the pastor was told to come to the office of the president.

"After he left his wife told us that last time he had been called to the president he had not returned, that is, not for fifty-four days. When he did re-

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## 2...Behind the Iron Curtain

turn at the end of that time he was almost starved from having received only a half glass of water and a very small piece of bread each day. Can you imagine the state of our minds? I was certainly fearful for ourselves, but I thought that if anything happened to the pastor I did not see how I would be able to stand it.

"After what seemed an unending period of time the pastor returned from his questioning by the police. His poor little wife was practically shattered.

"It was with relief, for them and us too, that we started on our way to the next place that afternoon. We traveled by wagon and some distance from the village were to cross the river by ferry. Here we had an unanticipated difficulty. Two detectives asked to see our passports and then told us that they had been ordered by the village president to make us stay there until further word from him. By then it was right on the verge of darkness.

"We seated ourselves on a log to wait; we didn't know how long or for what. The lay preacher with us kept saying over and over again that we surely would be put in prison. I kept praying and whistling -- as I had during the morning wait. I can't account for the tune, which both times was 'Ring the Bells of Heaven.' The ferry had made its last usual trip of the day. After an hour and a half we were told that we could go ahead and cross, and that the ferry was to make a special trip to carry us as we had missed it through no fault of our own.

"And so, although \_\_\_\_\_ did not get to speak in the village, we feel your prayers saved a pastor from possible imprisonment and made possible for us a boat trip across a river which separated us from an ignorant and unscrupulous official."

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### DR. LAWRENCE TO MARRY

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Mrs. Richard Calvin Huston has announced the engagement of her daughter, Helen Scott Huston, to Dr. J. B. Lawrence, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board.

The wedding will take place April 26 at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. E. L. Harling, in Decatur. Dr. James W. Middleton, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Atlanta, will officiate.

Miss Huston's father, the late Dr. Richard Calvin Huston, was for ten years pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Atlanta and served six years as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Miami before his death. Miss Huston has been secretary to Dr. Lawrence for the 20 years he has served as chief executive of the Home Mission Board.

Before coming to the Home Board, Dr. Lawrence had served as president of Oklahoma Baptist University and as executive secretary for the state conventions in Mississippi and Louisiana.

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