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"Christian" Inoculations  
Win Nicaraguan Friends

By C. E. Bryant

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)--Pistola de la paz, the "gun of peace" that a volunteer team of Christian-oriented North American doctors and volunteers brought to this Central American republic, is winning friends by the tens of thousands here.

A total of 102,937 persons marched by improvised clinics during the first two weeks of the team's stay, offering their arms for immunization against smallpox, tuberculosis, and leprosy. More than 45,000 children under ten years of age have received oral vaccine for polio.

An expected 180,000 persons will be given a total of about 400,000 immunizations before the project ends.

The peace gun, so named by its developer Dr. Robert A. Hingson, is a jet injector that emits vaccine with such force that it penetrates the skin without use of a hypodermic needle. Each of the 30 guns is capable of inoculating 400 persons an hour.

Forty-one persons, 13 of them from First Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio, volunteered a month's time and paid either all or most of their own expenses to bring the guns to Nicaragua.

The group includes seven doctors, seven nurses, four dentists, four medical students, and other technicians. Many are Southern Baptists, including a team from Baylor University Medical Center, a Baptist institution in Dallas, Tex.

They call themselves "Brother's Brother," a refinement of the term "Brother's Keeper." "Hermanos de los Hermanos" signs announcing the team's schedule are seen in all cities and villages from Managua south to the Costa Rica border.

Dr. Hingson, professor of anesthesia at Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has previously used the gun in mass immunization projects in Gaz, Liberia, and Honduras.

The effort in Nicaragua was initiated on invitation of the Nicaraguan health minister, Dr. Alfonso Boniche, and is being conducted with the help of the health ministry's staff.

Dr. Gustavo Parajon, a native of Nicaragua who is now completing his medical training as chief resident of the Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, is general director. The securing of supplies has been facilitated through Dr. Ramiro Cruz, administrator of Hospital Bautista in Managua.

The Good Samaritan visitors spent one week each in Masaya and Granada, with five teams fanning out into rural areas each day as well as working in city centers. A third week is to be spent at Rivas and a fourth north of Managua.

Publicity by newspapers, radio, sound-truck, and posted bulletins have brought people by the thousands to designated places at designated hours. People coming for vaccinations range in age from 10 days to 84 years.

Dr. Hingson said that this year's work in Nicaragua and similar programs both last year and this year in Honduras are expected to establish a band of immunity across the breadth of Central America.

The two years of work in Honduras is a project of an organization called "Amigos de las Americas," headed by a Baptist layman, Guy Bevil Jr. Last summer, the interdenominational project was sponsored by the River Oaks Baptist Church of Houston, where Bevil was minister of youth.

The team of volunteers in Nicaragua is interfaith and interracial. Major financial assistance for provision of medicine and equipment also has crossed traditional lines, with contributions coming from Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish organizations in Cleveland, the UNICEF of United Nations, the Pan American Health Organization, the Baptist World Alliance, and others.

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Its international nature was pointed out by Dr. Hingson. "The Brother's Brother Foundation was born in a medical mission survey sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance in 1958," he said.

"Here in Nicaragua we are using polio vaccine from Canada, smallpox vaccine from Brazil, a combination shot against leprosy and tuberculosis from Japan, and guns and personnel from the United States.

One Negro member of the team, Albert Burroughs, accomplished a major aim on his sixth day in Nicaragua -- he immunized his 100,000th person. He reached the 90,000 mark during two months in Liberia in 1962.

Burroughs is an operating room orderly and technician at Western Reserve University Hospital, Cleveland. His main assignment in Nicaragua is maintenance of the injector equipment, but he does that at night and then doubles during the day by manning an inoculation post.

Six youth are included in the contingent of 13 from the First Baptist Church of Cleveland. James Knauf, an assistant minister, also is here. Knauf said that the youth were selected on the basis of their involvement in inner-city volunteer services and in life of the church. "They have a strong initial commitment," he said.

Five people from Baylor University Medical Center, the Baptist healing center Dallas which includes Baylor University College of Dentistry, are on the team.

J. R. Marcontel, director of student religious activities at the medical center, enlisted four young dental students at Baylor for the medical mission. The young dentists are Robert Gordon Bendale, Robert Dale McNiece, Ronald Edwin Holman, and Billy Paul Green.

During the first two weeks, the Baptist-led team of young dentists extracted more than 1,200 teeth in dental clinics set up near the vaccine centers. In one clinic, one of the team members said they did not see a full set of teeth in any of the adults who came to the center.

Two other Southern Baptists are on the team. They are Dr. Harry C. Helm, who practices general medicine and surgery at Columbia, Tenn., and his son, Clay, an engineering student at Tennessee Technological University.

Dr. Helm, who is active in the First Baptist Church at Columbia, heard Dr. Hingson speak about his jet gun at a brotherhood rally in Nashville several months ago. "I told him after the meeting that I was volunteering to go with him on his next trip," Dr. Helm recalls. "Then when I found that Clay could go too, I phoned Dr. Hingson and told him the two of us were asking for the toughest assignments on the project."

They may not have had the toughest but they certainly have gone into remote areas. One day they went by boat to immunize villagers on islands in Lake Nicaragua. The next day they hunted out farmers and their families on the side of a volcanic mountain. Another time their Minibus, provided by UNICEF, got stuck in the mud so deep that the front wheels hung in the air. A kind farmer rescued them with a team of oxen.

Dr. Helm sees projects such as this one in Nicaragua as a challenge to every Christian doctor, and he feels that laymen generally might well volunteer their time to apply their special skills to mission work in remote areas.

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Alabama Baptists Draft  
Plans, Approve Budget

8/1/66

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Plans for a seven-year advance program to conclude in 1973 with a 150th anniversary celebration were adopted here by the Executive Board of the Baptist State Convention of Alabama.

The board, meeting for a mid-summer session here, also gave initial approval for a 1967 record budget of \$4,490,000, and authorized an around-the-world mission tour for the state Baptist executive secretary.

Program theme adopted by the board for the seven-year advance program is "Reaching Forward for Christ."

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In 1973, final year of the advance program, Alabama Baptists will observe the 150th anniversary of the founding of the convention.

Numerical goals aimed at challenging all phases of the denominational life for the coming seven years, 1967 through 1973, were adopted by the board.

Goal for the number of churches affiliated with the convention by 1973 was set at 2,930, with a goal of 895,000 total members in 1973. There are now 2,902 churches with 774,000 members in the convention.

Other 1973 goals adopted by the board were: 37,300 baptisms, 603,000 in Sunday School, and 300,000 in Training Union.

Financially, the board called for a \$200,000 annual increase in its state Cooperative Program unified budget. This would bring the 1973 budget to \$5,690,000. Thirty-five per cent of the budget would go each year to support world-wide missions causes through the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 1967 budget approved by the board, set at almost \$4½ million, is an increase of \$200,000 over the current state Baptist budget.

Included in the 1967 proposed budget, which must be approved by the state convention in November, were allocations to SBC world missions causes totaling \$1,571,500, and to Christian higher education in Alabama amounting to \$1,347,000.

An additional goal of \$1,365,000 for special offerings in Alabama Baptist churches for foreign, home and state missions was approved for 1967.

The board also voted to send its executive secretary, George E. Bagley, and his wife on a world-wide missions tour, and heard a report on plans to print a recently-written history of the Alabama Baptist convention by A. Hamilton Reid, former executive secretary.

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#### Atlanta Court Upholds Stadium Liquor Sales

8/1/66

ATLANTA (BP)--Mixed drinks may go up for sale in the Atlanta Stadium despite the protests of a Methodist layman and a Baptist journalist, if the ruling of a county judge is not appealed by the plaintiffs.

County Superior Court Judge Jesse M. Wood upheld the constitutionality of mixed drink sales and the operation of a private club in the Atlanta Stadium.

Judge Wood tossed out an earlier court ruling by Judge Durwood T. Pye prohibiting the sale of mixed drinks and the operation of a private club at the stadium.

Judge Wood's ruling dissolved a temporary restraining order issued in December prohibiting the sale of mixed drinks at the stadium, but he allowed 15 days for the plaintiffs to appeal the case.

Until then, the Stadium Club cannot sell mixed drinks or close its membership to the general public. The club is now operating as a public restaurant, selling beer but no mixed drinks.

The plaintiffs, Jack U. Harwell and L. R. Schwall of Atlanta, did not immediately announce whether they would appeal the ruling.

Harwell is associate editor of The Christian Index, weekly newspaper of the Georgia Baptist Convention, and Schwall is a Methodist trucking executive.

In the latest ruling, Judge Wood said that the basic purpose of the Stadium Club, Inc., the closed-membership group seeking the mixed drink permit, is to sell season tickets to the Atlanta Braves baseball games.

The judge said this made the private club "a necessary and desirable adjunct" to the successful operation of the \$19 million stadium.

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Judge Wood also ruled that the stadium's owners have the power to lease or sell stadium property for "private" use, that current city zoning ordinances do not restrict liquor sales or a private club at the stadium, and that the Fulton County Juvenile Court building adjacent to the stadium is not legally considered to be a school.

Plaintiffs had contended that the operation of "a public school program in the court building" made the property there a school ground. By Georgia law, liquor sales are not allowed within 200 yards of a school ground.

If the plaintiffs do not appeal the case within the 15 day period, mixed drinks will probably go up for sale in Atlanta Stadium.

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Furman Names Smith  
Religion Professor

8/1/66

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--A New Testament professor at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, Berkeley, Calif., has been named as professor of religion at Furman University (Baptist) here.

He is Taylor Clarence Smith, a native of Pineville, La., and a graduate of Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Smith holds both the master and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Seminary, and has earned the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He has done additional graduate work in Rabbinical Studies at Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio.

He taught New Testament at Southern Seminary in Louisville, and is a former pastor of First Baptist Church, Mooresville, N. C. A Navy chaplain, he holds the rank of commander in the Navy Reserve.

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