



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 3, 1969

Pope Gives \$10,000 To
Baptist Medical Effort

PITTSBURG (BP)--Pope Paul VI has contributed \$10,000 to further the work of a Southern Baptist medical doctor who is spearheading an international drive to inoculate the masses of people in underdeveloped countries against disease.

Dr. Robert A. Hingson, University of Pittsburg medical doctor and Baptist layman who invented a "peace gun" that inoculates 1,000 persons an hour, is the director of the project called "Operation Brother's Brother" that prompted the Catholic pope's cash gift.

John Cardinal Wright of the Roman Catholic Curia at Vatican City, notified Chancellor Wesley W. Posvar of the University of Pittsburg of the pope's contribution.

At the time, Dr. Hingson and a group of 25 volunteers was immunizing a half-million persons in Guatemala against measles, tuberculosis, and leprosy.

Dr. Hingson, as quoted in the Pittsburg Press, said that it is his Christian faith and the church through which that faith is expressed that is the motivating factor of his life-saving, mass inoculation efforts. Dr. Hingson is a member of First Baptist Church, Oakland, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburg.

Dr. Hingson's work reportedly came to the attention of the pope when Cardinal Wright gave him a book about "Operation Brother's Brother." The book was written by C. E. Bryant, director of publications for the Baptist World Alliance in Washington.

In a letter to Dr. Hingson, Cardinal Wright wrote in part:

"The gift of the Holy Father is a pledge of his prayerful admiration for the work of combating disease done by the foundation and of his desire to encourage you and all your associates in this truly humane and God-inspired work.

"The Holy Father particularly noted that his contribution might be more but that the present economic difficulties of the Holy See make this wish impossible."

The Southern Baptist doctor responded by saying, "This check from Pope Paul is ecumenicity at its finest. While Northern Ireland fights, this is a cementing wedge."

Dr. Hingson's projects to inoculate entire populations of underdeveloped countries have been both inter-faith and inter-racial.

The "peace gun" he invented injects serum under high pressure into the arm of the person receiving the inoculation under such intensity that the serum goes through clothing and skin without danger of infection or pain.

Dr. Hingson said that using his peace gun, teams of volunteers could save 100,000 babies from death in six republics of Central America in 18 months for 20 cents each.

During the last 100 years these republics lose 35 to 53 per cent of the babies each year before their fifth birthday, he added.

"Operation Brother's Brother" sends from 40 to 200 personnel in small teams each year to some needy area. An expedition to El Salvador is planned in November to inoculate a half million persons.

Dr. Hingson pointed out that the primary need of the organization is funds for the purchase of serum.

He said that each injection costs about 10 cents. Dr. Hingson added that a defense department official told him that every American has paid for about 5,000 bullets at \$1 each for use in the Vietnam war. "What we're asking for is a 10-cent bullet of peace."

Sunday School Board Votes
Aid To Hurricane Hit Churches

NASHVILLE (BP)--The 18 member executive member of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here voted to extend aid to distressed Baptist churches on the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Camille.

After hearing a report from Executive Secretary James L. Sullivan outlining traditional procedures in such disasters to provide free curriculum materials to replace current periodicals lost in the hurricane, the committee voted to broaden the aid for Hurricane Camille victims.

The committee approved Sullivan's request to provide free fourth-quarter study materials in special hardship cases where extreme devastation affected both the churches and the homes of church members.

Determination of which churches will receive this special help will be made in consultation with Baptist state convention offices in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

In other business, Robert Curtis Barnett of Shreveport, La., was nominated as manager of the Baptist Book Store in Denver, effective Jan. 1. Barnett will replace J. D. Dawson, who will become manager of the Lubbock Baptist Book Store upon the retirement of Lorell Burns, provided that the nomination is confirmed by mail poll of other elected board members.

- 30 -

Chatham Named Seminary
Presidential Assistant

9/3/69

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Doug Chatham, associate director of public relations at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been named the seminary's assistant to the president, succeeding F. Stanley Hardee, Seminary President H. Leo Eddleman announced.

Hardee, who had held the position since 1967, has been named executive vice president of Oceanado Inns Inc., and executive vice president of Lyndaunick Investments, both in Florida. Hardee will live in Ormond Beach, Fla.

Chatham, in addition to his duties as associate public relations director for the past nine months, has also been pastor of the Village d'Lest Baptist Church in New Orleans East, a church he helped organize in 1967.

In the new position as assistant to the president, Chatham will be in charge of the seminary's public relations and development departments, the seminary student placement program, the news bureau, alumni affairs, and student recruitment offices.

A native of Louisiana, Chatham is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and New Orleans Seminary. He was pastor of churches in Mississippi for 10 years before coming to the New Orleans church.

During this past summer, Chatham has been on an archeological dig in the Holy Land.

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Church Treasurer Beaten,
Robbed of \$3,000-\$4,000

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The bookkeeper-treasurer for Trinity Baptist Church here, 67-year-old John L. Long, was severely beaten as he opened the church safe to make a deposit of an estimated \$3,000 to \$4,000.

The assailant, described by Long as a "young Negro man," made off with the church's Sunday contributions, plus Long's personal wallet.

Long was knocked unconscious, apparently by a tire tool, and suffered lacerations and bruises of the hand and head. Physicians said there was no fracture of the skull, but several of his fingers were broken when he threw up his hands to protect his head.

The pastor of the church, Robert S. Scales, was at a loss to explain the robbery. Normally, the Sunday receipts are deposited on Sunday evening, but because of the Labor Day holiday, the deposit was not made.

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Long, a semi-retired man, was alone in the church early Tuesday morning following the holiday weekend, bending over the safe when he was attacked.

Scales said most of the lost funds probably would be covered by insurance.

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Former Ouachita Acting
President Killed In Crash

9/3/69

STEPHENS, Ark. (BP)--Marvin A. Green, 66, an independent oil dealer who was acting president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., for six months last year, was killed in an automobile crash on a country road near here.

Green, chairman of the Ouachita University board of trustees for two years, was acting president of the school while former President Ralph Phelps was on leave during 1968, serving as regional director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Funeral services were scheduled Thursday, Sept. 4, at the First Baptist Church of Stephens, where Green was a deacon.

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