



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 23, 1970

**Baptist Missionaries Save
1,000 Nigerian Refugee Lives**

RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries have been credited with saving more than 1,000 lives in the Port Harcourt area of Eastern Nigeria.

A spokesman for the Amegi community in Eastern Nigeria disclosed this in a letter expressing gratitude for the missionaries' work to H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here.

Goerner, in response, has issued a plea for Southern Baptists to observe a special day of prayer "for the building of bridges of understanding in Nigeria" on Sunday, Feb. 8, the date set for Race Relations Sunday throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the letter to Goerner, the Nigerian spokesman, L. O. Obireke commended especially the work of a team of Southern Baptist missionaries led by Urban L. Green.

"Through his cooperation and assistance, the lives of over 1,000 of our displaced persons have been saved," Obireke wrote.

"During the past 12 months we have been receiving from the Baptist mission and the Nigerian Baptist Convention what the Bible would call manna from heaven," he wrote.

"We received money, household materials, clothing, medical aid and foodstuffs to sustain the lives of our displaced persons both in Port Harcourt and at Okordia," the Nigerian continued.

"We very much appreciate the generosity of the Baptists and we sincerely thank you all for your humanitarian gestures," he concluded.

The letter was dated one week before the end of the Civil War in Nigeria.

The team of missionaries to which Obireke referred is comprised of four missionaries, three from Oklahoma and one from Mississippi.

They are: Mr. and Mrs. Green, of Carney, and Stillwater, Okla., respectively; Miss Josephine Scaggs of Stigler, Okla.; and Miss Emogene Harris of Johns, Miss.

Goerner noted that the relief team which has worked for months at Port Harcourt may now be able to move into areas formerly unsafe because of military activity.

He speculated that other missionaries from Western Nigeria may soon be able to join in the relief work.

"We do not yet know," Goerner added, "to what extent Baptist missionaries will be able to take part in these direct relief activities in territory recently captured by federal troops.

"It is certain," he continued, "that there will be a continuing need for aid to displaced persons, assistance in resettlement of families and the reopening of churches closed during the emergency.

"We pray that our missionaries and the national Baptist pastors and leaders may play a worthy part in the new day now dawning," Goerner said.

In calling for Southern Baptists throughout the nation to pray for the refugees of the war in Nigeria, Goerner said:

"Churches across America are urged to join in earnest prayer that the wounds of war may soon be healed, and that full reconciliation, cooperation and a spirit of unity may be accomplished.

He urged Christians to pray specifically for understanding between the tribesmen, and other cultural groups within Nigeria.

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"Special prayers are needed that unusual wisdom, restraint, and compassion might be granted to government leaders and all others who are involved in the rebuilding of national unity," he concluded.

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Missionary Daughters Win
Awards For College Study

1/23/70

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Daughters of two Southern Baptist missionaries have won Elizabeth Lowndes Awards for excellence during their college careers.

The Executive Board of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, has voted \$200 awards to Donna Lynn Nelson Allred and to Mary Margaret Dunaway.

Mrs. Allred is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson, home missionaries working with Indians in Albuquerque, N.M. She graduated from Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., and is now teaching school in Plainview.

Miss Dunaway is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie G. Dunaway, Jr., missionaries to Nigeria. She graduated from Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn., and is doing graduate work at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

The WMU board voted the unusual double award because the candidates had almost equal qualifications. Both were biology majors, had almost identically high grades, and both participated actively in leading campus organizations.

The Elizabeth Lowndes Award is named in honor of Mrs. W. C. Lowndes, treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union for almost 40 years. It was established in 1934 as part of the Margaret Fund, which grants scholarships to children of missionaries.

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Methodist Bishop To Lecture
At Golden Gate Seminary

1/23/70

MILL VALLEY, CALIF. (BP)--Bishop Gerald Kennedy will be the guest lecturer for the H. I. Hester Lectureship on Preaching at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here March 3-6, Seminary President Harold K. Graves has announced.

Theme for the series of four lectures will be "Priorities for the 70's," with the chief emphasis on effective preaching of the Gospel.

It will mark the second time that Bishop Kennedy, well known Methodist leader from Los Angeles, will deliver lectures named in honor of H. I. Hester.

In 1967, Bishop Kennedy lectured at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., in the lectures at that institution named for Hester, who for many years was vice president at Midwestern Seminary.

Kennedy was assigned as Bishop for the Los Angeles area by the Methodist Church in 1952. He is a former president of the Council of Bishops for the Methodist Church, and has lectured at numerous seminaries and universities throughout the nation.

He assumed regular preaching schedule at the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena, Calif., in 1968, marking the first time that a Methodist bishop had filled the pulpit of a local church on a regular basis.

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