



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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December 18, 1970

Earthquake Rocks Ecuador;  
Baptist Community Unharmed

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Ecuador reported there was no loss of life or property among the Baptist community following an earthquake that shook southern Ecuador and northern Peru recently.

Missionary Stanley D. Stamps said that the Ecuadoran Ministry of Defense set the death toll at 24. An earlier Associated Press release reported that Jorge Acosta Velasco, Ecuadoran Minister of Defense, said at least 50 persons perished in his country.

The quake registered 7.5 on the Richter Scale, making it almost as strong as the one that left more than 50,000 people dead in Peru last May.

The center of the recent earthquake was located in the province of Loja, on the Ecuador-Peru border. Tremors were also strong in the neighboring coastal province of El Oro. Southern Baptists have no work in either province.

Some Andean villages and towns were described as 90 per cent destroyed, and other localities reported that most houses were so badly damaged as to be unsafe for habitation.

The quake was also felt with some intensity in the provinces of Azuay and Guayas, where Southern Baptists have work in Cuenca and the Guayaquil area. No damage was suffered to property occupied by Baptist churches or missionaries.

The Interamerican Missionary Society operates a small medical clinic at Saraguro near the city of Loja, but three days after the quake no report was available from the missionary doctor there.

Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries from Loja were reported to be safe and unharmed, but no word was available from several of the alliance's congregations in several of the towns and villages which were seriously affected.

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Carson-Newman College  
Rescinds Dancing Policy

12/18/70

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (BP)--The board of trustees for Carson-Newman College here voted to comply "100 per cent" with the request of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its Executive Board which asked the Baptist school to rescind a policy permitting dancing on the campus.

Board chairman Henry M. Chiles, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Knoxville, said that the action was the first order of business at the trustees' first meeting after the convention meeting in Jackson, Tenn., had endorsed and reaffirmed the convention's Executive Board request of May 12 asking the college to rescind the policy.

There was little discussion on the motion to comply with the convention's request, according to Chiles.

"Everyone felt that the convention had spoken, and that we wanted to follow 100 per cent the wishes of the parent body," said Chiles in a telephone interview.

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The action was expected to end a nine-month controversy which started March 5 when the trustees voted to permit social dancing "as a part of the total social program scheduled on the campus." During the controversy, nearly 100 Baptist churches in Tennessee voted to withhold funds from the Cooperative Program (unified budget) so long as the dancing policy was in effect.

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