

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 3, 1972

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Following is a replacement story for the Baptist Press report mailed 3-2-72, headlined "Baptists Help Hindus Reconstruct Village." Please destroy the original story and use the replacement instead. The village is predominantly Muslim, not Hindu, but the project is aiding the Hindu residents who were the special targets of terror. Revised story follows:

**Baptists Help Hindus Rebuild  
Homes in Bangladesh Village**

**KASHEMPUR, Bangladesh (BP)**--About 130 Hindus of this war-torn village are building themselves new houses with materials furnished as part of a Southern Baptist relief project directed by Missionary James F. McKinley Jr.

Cost of the project to build the 120 to 130 houses is estimated at about \$26,000.

The project is part of a continuing effort by Southern Baptist missionaries to become involved in relief work in Bangladesh. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has appropriated \$101,500 for use by the missionaries in rebuilding houses destroyed by the war for the independence of what formerly was called East Pakistan.

Construction of the houses in Kashempur is moving rapidly, and they should be ready for occupancy before the monsoon rains begin in June, McKinley said.

The majority of the villagers are Muslims, according to McKinley, but "there are about 1,000 Hindus who were the special targets of the terrorization unleashed upon the Bengali people by a ruthless army for nine months."

Little was left of Kashempur's Hindu area except its fertile soil, McKinley observed. The material in their houses which could be used for building military bunkers was taken away and the remaining parts burned, he added.

"No government of a new country could have enough money to rebuild the needed houses along with all of the other costs of developing a nation which has been so rudely torn apart," McKinley said. "Others must help."

McKinley is working closely with local people including two young Christian men. McKinley said he hoped the people will see God's love revealed through the concern of Christians.

Materials for the work are being purchased locally to help the economy. At least 10 houses are under construction at a time. The owner provides all of the help except that of specialists, the carpenter and the artisan for weaving the bamboo.

Workers form a human train to carry the building materials long distances across the countryside, carefully balancing the load on their heads, McKinley said. The task does not end at darkness; kerosene lamps provide light so that work continues until late at night.

Before the carpenters reach a building site, the owner is expected to dig holes for the 10 posts which become the main support structure. Often the women and children help.

If someone has a job in the nearby town of Feni, he hires others to help with the construction of his house, McKinley said.

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Because the government of Bangladesh will soon stop providing food for these villagers, one member of each family is being taught methods of cooperative farming.

Others, including women who spend hours popping rice for sale in the local market, are already making a living for themselves.

Reconstruction projects like the one in Kashempur have given Southern Baptist missionaries their first opportunity to directly engage in massive relief work in the new nation of Bangladesh, McKinley said.

During the war, Southern Baptists had to channel relief funds through local churches and government-approved agencies or among their own personal acquaintances.

"Kashempur is only one tiny area in Bangladesh," McKinley observed. "Thousands more need help.

"Money has already been allocated for projects in several areas where Southern Baptist missionaries live," he added, "but it is hoped that more will be forthcoming to show Christian concern for needy millions."

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Kentucky Board Names Ison  
Annuity Board State Worker

3/3/72

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Byrd R. Ison, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, Midway, Ky., has been elected director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annuity Department.

Ison, pastor of the Midway church for 10 years, will succeed A. W. Walker, who is retiring April 1.

Previously, Ison was pastor of churches in Paris and Irvine, Ky. He is a graduate of University of Kentucky and has had experience in life insurance and other business endeavors.

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SBC Mission Gifts Near  
\$18 Million in Two Months

3/3/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--During the first two months of 1972, Southern Baptists have given \$17.98 million to world missions, an increase of more than \$700,000, or 4.1 per cent over the amount contributed for the same period last year.

The \$17.9 million total includes \$5.3 million contributed through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget plan, plus \$12.6 million in designated gifts to specific world mission causes, mostly foreign missions.

Biggest increase came in designated giving, with \$790,645 more given to specific mission causes in the first two months of 1972, compared to the same period in 1971. Designations were up 6.6 per cent comparing the two periods.

Because of a 13 per cent increase in January of 1971 in Cooperative Program giving which inflated the 1971 totals to an unusually high amount, Cooperative Program contributions for the first two months of 1972 were actually 1.53 per cent lower than Cooperative Program gifts for January-February 1971, according to John H. Williams, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee which prepared the report.

During February, Cooperative Program gifts totalled \$2.5 million, an increase of \$75,878, or 3.09 per cent over February 1971 Cooperative Program gifts.

Williams said the February increase almost offset a 5.38 per cent decrease recorded in January due to the inflated amount in January 1971 when an unusually large check which should have arrived in December was delayed until January.

The \$5.3 million in Cooperative Program contributions for the two month period was \$82,980 less than the \$5.4 million given in the first two months of 1971, a decrease of 1.53 per cent.

Amounts included in the financial report reflect only national mission contributions, not gifts to local and state mission efforts of Southern Baptists.

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