

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 30, 1973

**Spanish Baptist Gifts  
Assist Flood Victims**

MADRID, Spain (BP)--A spontaneous love offering of \$6,280, collected recently from the 57 churches of the Spanish Baptist Union for the flood victims in southeastern Spain, has brought favorable reaction from Spanish officials and newspapers.

The fund raising was promoted under the name "Operacion Manta" (Operation Blanket), because blankets were especially needed. In addition to blankets, the love offering also purchased towels, clothing, kitchen utensils and other household goods.

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**Assassination Threat  
Increased Mission Concern**

11/30/73

DALLAS (BP)--Recalling how his life had been threatened by a Viet Cong assassin, a Southern Baptist missionary to Vietnam told 800 Baptist pastors and laymen here he planned to return to Vietnam despite the harrowing experience he endured before his furlough to the United States.

Peyton Moore, a native of Mississippi now living in Arlington, Tex., said at a national Southern Baptist prayer breakfast for foreign missions that he could now thank God for that experience because it made him realize why he was there and understand his purpose in life.

"Not long ago I looked into the muzzle of a .38 revolver and a face contorted with misery, frustration, bitterness and hatred," Moore said. A Viet Cong assassin told him "in broken English" his house was surrounded by soldiers and that he would die if he made any shout or attempt at retaliation, Moore continued.

He told the group that the Viet Cong threatened to rape his wife, to kill him, his family and his friends. Then, almost miraculously, the soldiers left as suddenly as they had come, Moore said.

"I'm grateful that by the power of God we were saved from that very bitter, very traumatic and potentially terminal experience, Moore told the prayer breakfast group.

Moore, director of the Baptist Communications Center in Saigon, said he was grateful for the experience now, "for in that moment, God took full control of my life."

He said he looked forward to returning to Vietnam with the prayer that "God's power can accomplish something the greatest army in the world could not--peace with freedom in the Land of the Smaller Dragon."

Moore was one of four Southern Baptist missionaries who shared their personal experiences with the 800 Baptists from 19 states gathered at the Statler Hilton Hotel here for the breakfast sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, the denomination's agency which works with laymen and boys.

Baker James Cauthen of Richmond, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, pointed out that while other denominations were cutting back on the number of missionaries overseas, Southern Baptists continued to increase their missionary force and financial support of missions.

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In 1948, he said, the SBC had only about 600 missionaries in 19 countries around the world. Now the mission board has a budget of \$42.6 million and some 2500 missionaries in 77 countries.

Purpose of the prayer breakfast, said Glendon McCullough, the Brotherhood Commission's chief executive, was to motivate support among Baptist laymen for raising \$20 million in an annual special Christmas offering for foreign missions among some 35,000 churches of the 12 million member convention.

Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., president of the Southern Baptist Convention and retired industrialist, told the laymen not to minimize their role in missions, for although all Christians are in a sense missionaries, not all can go overseas.

Cooper urged them not to neglect their role as a sender and provider and asked that they return to their churches avowed to increase mission gifts and prayer support for missionaries like Peyton Moore around the world.

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Just Try to Get An Original  
Broadman Commentary, Vol. I

11/30/73

NASHVILLE (BP)--Even the Baptist Sunday School Board has trouble getting a copy of the controversial, original published version of the Broadman Commentary, volume I.

It was discovered the book was missing from the Dargan-Carver Library at the Sunday School Board, according to a board spokesman.

"It's ironic that there are thousands of copies in the warehouse, but we just can't reach in and replace it," the spokesman said.

It took no less than Board President James L. Sullivan to get action.

Sullivan had to go even higher to the board's trustee executive committee with a request for the controversial volume which made international news, the board spokesman said.

The original version of the commentary volume was withdrawn from sale by the board's trustees, following a request from the SBC, meeting in St. Louis in 1971 that the volume be withdrawn and rewritten "with due consideration of the conservative viewpoint."

Persons now owning copies of the controversial volume hold a type of rare collector's item, according to the board spokesman, "including the individual who borrowed or stole the Dargan-Carver Library copy, if that's what happened. We're not sure how it came to be missing."

The trustees' gift to the library was just in time for Christmas.

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Governor Says Baptists  
Misrepresented Liquor Views

11/30/73

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--A series of charges and countercharges between Georgia Baptists and their Southern Baptist governor, Jimmy Carter, over his alleged pro-liquor views has been clarified as a simple case of a misleading newspaper headline.

But Carter, an ordained deacon and active member of Atlanta's Northside Drive Baptist Church, resents treatment by his fellow Baptists.

In October, daily newspapers in Atlanta published stories claiming that Gov. Carter "favors a wet Georgia," and that he would push for legislation making liquor sales legal all over the state.

On Nov. 14, in annual session, the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia adopted a strong resolution castigating Gov. Carter for these alleged views, saying that they are "not in keeping with his personal commitment to Georgia Baptists."

The resolution also called on Georgia Assembly to "resist and defeat the announced proposal of Gov. Jimmy Carter to legalize the sale of liquor in every county in Georgia."

While the Georgia convention was adopting that resolution--plus another contradictory

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one that praised the Baptist governor for his efforts to stamp out organized crime and alcohol-- Gov. Carter was in South Carolina speaking to that state Baptist convention.

When he got home that evening, he read in the secular press the resolutions adopted by Georgia Baptists that afternoon. He immediately wrote a personal, handwritten letter to the convention explaining that he was grossly misquoted in the original news stories and that he had no intention of advocating statewide legal liquor.

The governor's driver hand delivered the letter to the convention president, John T. Tippet Jr., who was presiding over the Georgia convention's final worship session that evening in Atlanta.

Tippet did not read the letter to the convention, later saying in a prepared statement that "the evening session was designed. . . to be inspirational and worshipful in character (and) made no provision for a business period."

Tippet added: "Gov. Carter's letter pertains to a subject which had been considered at a business session of the convention. It was my decision, therefore, to submit the governor's letter for publication in the Christian Index (journal of the Georgia Baptist Convention) and to provide a response to Gov. Carter through regular procedures and responsible committees of the convention."

After several discussions with the governor and Christian Index editor Jack U. Harwell, Tippet released the governor's letter.

The letter said in part: "I have no intention to change our state laws to permit the sale of liquor throughout Georgia. However, our Georgia Baptists should fully realize that in almost every so-called 'dry' county, whiskey is sold openly and, in many instances, with the full knowledge of community leaders. . . .

"These illegal sales provide profits on which little tax is paid and often is the central product used to provide for sale of drugs, for gambling operations, prostitution, theft rings and for the distribution of pornography."

Gov. Carter's statement added: "There is no doubt that condoned sale of liquor in dry counties is much more serious than legal sale of liquor in wet counties. The attendant crime and the perversion of law enforcement efforts is a cancer within a community which corrupts in a far-reaching manner.

"We should face this problem frankly and cease looking the other way when laws are violated. Because of the all-pervasive nature of this problem, primary responsibility must lie with local leaders."

In the closing paragraph of his letter to the Georgia Baptist Convention, Gov. Carter said: "To summarize, many 'dry' counties have a much worse problem than others. However, I do not intend to seek state laws passed to change dry counties into wet ones."

The week after the Georgia Baptist Convention met, a delegation of Atlanta Baptists called on Gov. Carter to "seek clarification" of his liquor views. The delegation was led by Louie D. Newton, pastor emeritus of Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta, and a former Southern Baptist Convention president.

Gov. Carter restated for that group essentially the same position expressed in his letter to the Georgia Baptist Convention.

He also expressed strong resentment toward Baptist groups adopting resolutions about him, without first calling on him to determine his exact views.

Gov. Carter is a member of the board of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, mission education agency for men and boys, and spoke to several state Baptist conventions this fall representing the Brotherhood Commission.