

January 24, 1974

**'Meals on Wheels' Feed
Hungry in Winston-Salem**

By Toby Druin

WINSTON-SALEM N.C. (BP)--"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink..."

Come heat, rain, sleet or snow, they take that quotation from Matthew's gospel seriously in Winston-Salem. Fifty-two weeks of the year, Monday through Friday, some 150 volunteers from 14 or more churches here see that the hungry are fed.

The volunteers provide the "wheels" for an innovative Meals on Wheels program that delivers two meals daily--lunch and the evening meal--to a growing number of individuals unable to provide for themselves.

The unusual program, begun in 1961, was the brainchild of former Twin-Cities Mayor Marshall Kurfees, who now heads the Model Community Project, aimed at making the city a better place to live.

The program has grown so that in the past year about 25,000 meals were delivered. Bob Bailey, associate pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church and program coordinator, said his crew of interdenominational workers can be depended on to make deliveries of meals--even in a foot of snow, as happened this winter.

Meals on wheels has a distinctive Baptist flavor but is an interdenominational venture. The meals are provided by North Carolina Baptist Hospital, with Wake Forest Baptist Church coordinating the project.

Ardmore, Mt. Zion, First Church, East Winston and College Park--all Baptist churches--are involved in distribution, as are the city's St. Paul's Episcopal, Clemmons and Home Moravian congregations.

The First, Trinity and Highland Presbyterian churches and First Christian Church, among others, provide additional volunteers.

Meals in the program are the same as those served by the Baptist hospital, including any of 18 special diets. Mrs. R.R. Brock, the hospital's dietician, supervises preparation of the "wheels" meals, just as she does for meals served to the hospital's patients.

Some persons have been receiving the meals for years, while others participate for only a week or two. Bailey said the hospital can provide meals for a maximum of 75 individuals.

On weekends, persons who receive the "wheels" meals Monday through Friday depend on friends or family or prepare their own meals. Breakfast isn't provided because breakfast foods are easily kept and prepared, Mrs. Brock said.

Cost of preparing the meals, bookkeeping and labeling of meal cartons are absorbed by the hospital and doesn't add to the food price.

The Meals on Wheels program isn't charity, Bailey noted. Rather, he said, almost all the people now receiving the meals, provided by the hospital on a non-profit basis, are able to pay.

Several people receive a portion of the cost from South Carolina's department of Social Services, he added. Meal containers from the Reynolds Foundation, plus the volunteer delivery force, also help keep costs down, Bailey said.

No one is turned down simply because he or she can't afford cost of the service, Bailey said.

The meals program is a ministry for many of the volunteers, aside from the mere transporting of meals. Recipients are often elderly or handicapped, and the volunteer might be the only contact outside the apartment or home.

Deliveries begin around 11:15 a.m. and usually take a volunteer about an hour to complete, depending on weather, traffic, and time spent in the meals recipients' homes. Many volunteers and recipients have developed firm friendships.

Most of the delivery volunteers are women, though husbands and children occasionally help. Mrs. C.W. Day, a member of First Baptist Church here, lauded the program.

"I had been beating my brains out going to meetings," she said between deliveries. "This way I feel as if I'm really contributing." Mrs. Grant Lynch agreed, "It's the most worthwhile thing I do."

Bailey said he expects the program to expand but is fearful of the possible effects of the energy crisis and prospects of gasoline rationing.

"If we get the gasoline we need, I'm not worried about the willingness of the volunteers to meet the challenge," Bailey said. "Twelve years is enough to prove they are determined to live up to their part of the responsibility."

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BP Photo mailed to Baptist state paper editors; others on request.

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CORRECTION

In 2nd graph, line 1 of Baptist Press story mailed January 21, 1974, headlined "Georgia Baptists Gifts Reach Record High," delete the word "designated," so the line will read --total gifts--. Thanks.

--Baptist Press



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January 24, 1974

Fagan Succeeds Lackey In Stewardship Post

NASHVILLE (BP)--A. Rudolph Fagan, a Florida pastor and immediate past chairman of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, was elected here as the commission's new executive director-treasurer, effective March 1.

Fagan, 44, current president of the Florida Baptist Convention, succeeds James V. Lackey, who announced his resignation last October. Lackey has since formed a Nashville-based firm, James V. Lackey and Associates, financial consultants specializing in fund raising for churches and charitable institutions.

Commission Chairman Paul Gates, a layman from Lubbock, Tex., said Fagan was recommended by the commission's executive committee to the full commission "after much prayerful consideration and many meetings and after having discussed 20 to 30 persons from 16 states."

A native of Richton, Miss., Fagan has served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Bradenton, Fla., for the past two years. He previously held eight-year pastorates at both Delaney Street Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., and First Baptist Church, Sebring, Fla. Two other pastorates were in Kirbyville, Tex., and Boca Grande, Fla., and two assistant pastorates in Arcadia, Fla., and Birmingham, Ala.

During Fagan's eight years in the Sebring pastorate, Gates said, both the church's annual budget receipts and annual contributions to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget more than tripled.

Similar statistics during the Orlando pastorate reveal budget receipts nearly doubling in eight years and Cooperative Program gifts more than doubling. In Bradenton, both budget receipts and Cooperative Program gifts increased some two and a half times in two years.

Fagan attended Stetson University, Deland, Fla., and the University of Florida, Gainesville, and holds a bachelor of arts degree from Howard College (now Samford University), Birmingham. He also holds bachelor of divinity and master of divinity degrees from Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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BP Photo mailed to state Baptist editors

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Religious Leaders Briefed
By Washington Legislators

1/24/74

WASHINGTON (BP)--U.S. senators and representatives briefed participants in a nationwide interfaith gathering here on a wide range of issues confronting the second session of the 93rd Congress--including tax reform, the constitutional crisis, national health insurance, the consumer and the energy crisis, military spending and campaign reform.

Two Washington-based interfaith organizations, IMPACT and the Washington Interreligious Staff Council (WISC), sponsored the two-day, second annual gathering attended by representatives of many religious groups, including several Baptist denominations. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs participates actively in WISC.

Addressing himself to the constitutional crisis confronting the nation, Senator Lowell Weicker Jr. (R.-Conn.) said an outgrowth of the Watergate scandals will be stringent reforms in campaign financing.

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But Weicker, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, said he opposes public financing of political campaigns and would rather cut down on the time of campaigns to save cost--not dump the problem in the lap of the federal government through government financed campaigns.

Two other legislators, however, in separate sessions at the briefing, called for public financing.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D.-Mass.) said Watergate revealed corruptive influence of large corporations on campaigns. He said major oil companies, through multi-million dollar contributions, shaped administration oil policy. He urged that legislators must be placed in a position to vote for his constituency rather than for the pocketbooks of campaign contributors.

Kennedy, who is pushing legislation for public financing of campaigns, said he feels such legislation has a good chance to pass, but Rep. Andrew Young (D.-Ga.) while favoring public financing, said it has little chance to pass because many (legislators) see it as financing their opposition--and it will, he noted.

Young declared that Congress has got to do something with a public campaign funding process before the influence of such interests as Boeing, Lockheed and the highway lobby can be blunted.

Weicker asserted that present administration has slowed down the process of resolving the Watergate issue by preventing the flow of information needed to clear up the matter and not dealing openly with the public.

He said the facts of Watergate would not have come to light without a free press and a free legislative process.

Rep. James D. Corman (D.-Cal.) and Rep. Young called for meaningful tax reform. But Corman, addressing himself to his tax reform proposal, H.R. 1040, now in committee, said his bill will likely be rejected by the current Congress.

He said the tax system is a good tax system based on ability to pay but that it's too harsh at the bottom of the scale and allows those who make more than they need to avoid payment.

Corman favors elimination of special tax incentives (including for churches and charitable institutions), getting people at the bottom of the scale out of the tax structure and taxing all forms of income in the same manner.

Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D.-N.Y.) charged that consumers have been outnumbered and outfinanced by national major corporations which sustain huge lobbies in the nation's capital.

Referring to the current energy crisis as "a presumed crisis," Rosenthal condemned the nation's major oil companies for reaping windfall profits at the expense of people less able to pay.

He said that people who led the country into the oil dilemma are profiting and urged legislation for stringent price control so that everyone--not just the consumer--sacrifices.

Congressman Les Aspin (D.-Wis.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said military spending should be reduced but that it was nearly impossible to do so because the influential Armed Services Committee is stacked in favor of huge military expenditures.

Aspin said citizens should lobby for removing power from house committees on such issues and turning it over to more balanced party caucuses, support amendments on the floor of the house to alter normally impregnable committee recommendations and urge a general ceiling on military expenditures, rather than elimination of specific weapons systems.

Urging elimination of specific weapons systems as an economy move will not often succeed, Aspin said, because congressmen are not military experts and would hesitate to contradict such experts who assert the need for a certain system.

Elimination of specific systems creates specific unemployment in readily identifiable cities, unions and companies--and that won't get through, he added.

Aspin indicated, however, that the currently proposed \$99 billion military budget proposal will probably pass because of Armed Services Committee influence.

Young, in one of the briefing highlights, called not only for tax and campaign financing reforms, but laid a biblical base for relationship of Christians with legislators.

The United Church of Christ minister said there's no place a ministry can be more productive than on Capitol Hill.

Professional lobbyists, he said, cater to what Christians are called to cater to--the loneliness, lostness, meaninglessness in the lives of every human.

He said the lobbyists sustain a friendly relationship with a congressman, even when they don't need something.

Young urged "pastoral care" for the legislators and their staff members who, he said, do more to affect the opinion of Congress than the person doing the voting.

Rep. Martha W. Griffiths (D.-Mich.) called for passage of legislation she has introduced as H.R. 22. Her bill, similar to one introduced in the Senate by Sen. Kennedy, calls for federal administration of health care and health insurance, in cooperation with doctors and hospitals. The proposal differs with one introduced by the Nixon administration calling for a national health service administered by the insurance companies.

Rep. John E. Moss (D.-Cal.), called the system of classifying documents by government agencies over long periods of time an "abuse." "I have a firm conviction," he stated, "that a free people needs to know as far as their curiosity leads them" to seek knowledge.