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**Students Put Missions In
Action After Tornado**

By Larry High and Wesley M. Pattillo

LOUISVILLE (BP)--It was Missions Emphasis Week at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary when the April 3 tornado turned it into a week of intensive missions involvement for most of the seminary's 1,500 students and staff.

The seminary's buildings and property sustained damage which may run as high as \$1 million and the campus lost more than 300 trees, but miraculously only eight injuries were reported to persons on the campus.

Spontaneously, after the storm had cleared, a mass of seminarians raced down the hill behind the Mullins residence hall complex to provide immediate aid to victims trapped in the rubble of the hundreds of frame houses devastated in the neighboring Crescent Hill community.

One elderly resident, his home in shambles, said he was still standing dazed when a seminary student began to go through his home looking for injured persons.

Several injured victims were carried up the long hill to the on-campus infirmary, already staffed by registered nurses who were students in the seminary. National Guard helicopters--as many as three at one time--airlifted a dozen or more seriously injured victims from a makeshift helipad in front of the Boyce Centennial Library on the seminary campus.

Only one hour after the storm had ravaged the area immediately north of the campus, seminary students met to coordinate and plan an extensive operation to bring aid to the stricken area. The lobby of Mullins Hall became an impromptu command post under the direction of two theology students, Robert Rainwater of Shreveport, La., and James Doss of Charlotte, N.C.

Woman's Missionary Union Hall, not heavily damaged, was immediately opened and manned by students to provide disaster victims with food, shelter, clothing and help in moving from their damaged homes into the building for the night. It made an ideal refugee center: 100 beds were already made up and waiting for a conference which was to have begun the following day.

Students worked long into the night Wednesday, April 3, moving families to the campus and helping residents who chose to stay in their homes prepare for night. Several hours after the student relief efforts began, various county, state and national agencies began their operations in Crescent Hill, expressing admiration for the quick and effective action of the seminarians. The Red Cross, later that night, began limited operations in WMU Hall, which it designated as a disaster center.

Louisville police headquarters instructed officers to honor seminary identification cards the same as Red Cross armbands. Civil Defense officials described the seminarians as the "backbone" of relief efforts in the Crescent Hill area.

Thursday morning, students organized themselves into groups with assignments for specific tasks, such as removing trees from roofs, assisting elderly persons to make provision for temporary housing and providing pastoral care where needed.

Students, acting as scouts, went door-to-door through the entire community asking residents what help was needed and how the seminarians could best respond. The scouts then reported back to the command post.

Friday morning, students were back in the area, patching holes in walls and roofs of damaged houses, operating chain saws and swinging axes to clear trees from yards, off cars and away from homes. They stretched rolls of plastic across gaping holes where walls and roofs once stood, to secure homes against the elements.

The Ryder Truck Rental company loaned a fleet of 25 large trucks to the students and even provided the bus fare for seminarians to travel to Indianapolis to pick up some of the trucks. Saturday and Sunday, students began to haul the rubble out of the area to city and county landfills and furniture and personal possessions to temporary homes of relocated victims.

A week after the disaster, student teams were still hard at work loading trucks, cutting away debris, trimming damaged trees and meeting the more personal needs of victims still in a state of shock from heavy property loss or injury.

One elderly woman, still sitting alone Monday night, April 8, in her damaged home, which had no lights, no heat, no telephone and no cooking facilities, would not heed Civil Defense pleas for her to move to warmer quarters until a seminary student came and talked to her and convinced her to leave her home. She moved to WMU Hall.

Crescent Hill wasn't the only target of student volunteer efforts. About 100 students worked several days in Brandenburg and other small towns in Kentucky and Indiana which were heavily hit by the twister.

An observer watching the relief operation would hardly guess that many of the students suffered property damage themselves. Scores of student automobiles were severely damaged, some beyond repair when the storm stripped huge beech and oak trees up by the roots on the campus. About 30 student families were displaced from their apartments in the old victorian homes wrecked in the Crescent Hill neighborhood.

Amateur radio buffs in the student body set up a disaster message center in Mullins Hall to send word around the country--and even overseas--to families of students and community residents.

The radio equipment, as everything else in the emergency command post, was powered by generators hauled to the windows of Mullins Hall. The seminary campus was still without power and heat eight days after the tornado, and telephones were operating under battery power.

Donna McKubben, wife of a seminary student from Mississippi, coordinated a feeding effort for victims and volunteers. Food was brought in by Baptist churches and businesses in the area, and the students obtained a refrigerated truck to keep perishables cold. At one time, 500 persons were being fed at each meal by the team of student volunteers in Mullins Hall, and another 100 or so were being fed in WMU Hall.

In a called meeting of the student body 24 hours after the twister's deadly invasion, President Duke McCall praised the student volunteer effort, calling it "a beautiful evidence of Christian love at work, and certainly the finest Missions Emphasis Week in my memory!" The packed Alumni Chapel resounded with a closing hymn, "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds," as darkness fell on the campus.

In a letter to the editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Louisville Times, the Rev. Richard F. Fowler of the Church of St. Frances of Rome, a Crescent Hill Catholic congregation, praised Professor Dale Moody and his team of seminary students as representative of the vigorous efforts of the Southern Seminary relief operation. He closed his letter: "What a beautiful witness, for a change, of man's humanity to man! May God bless them all!"

(BP) PHOTO mailed to Baptist state paper editors

EDITOR'S NOTE: Larry High is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and an intern on the Western Recorder, state paper for Kentucky Southern Baptists. Wesley M. Pattillo is vice president for development at Southern Seminary.

Tornadoes Have Their Lighter Moments Too

By Toby Druin

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, reeling from the devastating effects of tornadoes, still found time for a lighter side.

Some even found things to joke about.

The storm struck in the middle of Missions Emphasis Week. The standard quip making the rounds is: "Next year's goal (for Missions Emphasis Week) is .6 in the Richter (earthquake measurement) Scale."

Another is: "We've been saying for a long time we'd turn this place upside down."

But jokes aside, a visitor to the campus quickly observed an air of matter-of-factness that took the storm in stride and showed a determination to make the most of it.

There was no weeping, wailing or gnashing of teeth--but many prayers of thanksgiving that it was not worse.

The storm struck the campus about 4:40 p.m., Wednesday, April 3, with little or no warning. All electric clocks stopped at that time.

President Duke McCall, who an hour later was ferrying police into the area on his Honda, was in session in his office with the seminary deans. A hurried warning passed through the seminary administration building that a tornado was approaching and that people should seek shelter in the basement.

But few made it to the basement. Those in the business office took shelter in the vault. Luckily, the building was spared major damage and no one was injured.

All 18 buildings on campus suffered some damage and the campus lost 300 trees. Although no irreparable structural damage is reported to buildings, rehabilitation costs, including some \$250,000 in landscaping, may reach \$1 million. All but landscaping is covered by insurance, a seminary spokesman said.

Frank Stagg, professor of New Testament interpretation, had just driven to the seminary to mail a book manuscript when the tornadoes hit.

He laughingly said that most of the time his parking place is occupied by someone else. This time, however, it was empty and he was able to park. The storm struck while he was in the post office. When he returned to his automobile, he found it completely crushed by a fallen tree. The same fate befell many other cars belonging to faculty, students and staff.

Several professors' homes were severely damaged. The residence of Marvin Tate, associate professor of Old Testament interpretation, was virtually destroyed. Allen Graves' home, across the street from Tate's, will require major surgery if it is to be saved.

Many others were damaged severely. Many lost garages. Dale Moody's home was badly battered, and his garage was simply blown away, leaving his automobile behind.

But the real story of the tornado lay in the response of students, who turned the disaster into an opportunity for ministry that will be remembered by the city of Louisville for a long time.

Relief efforts by the students, called the "backbone of the relief effort" by Civil Defense spokesmen, won the praise and admiration of local residents and city officials.

And many of the students employed in the seminary came to Badgett Dillard, vice president for business affairs, and said they did not expect any overtime pay for the extra work required to clear the debris from the campus. Some were working 18-hour days.

Dillard said federal regulations require the overtime pay but that the students said they would turn the extra money over to the disaster relief fund.

HMB Distributes Relief Funds, Promotes Palmer

ATLANTA (BP)--A total of \$36,000 in emergency disaster relief funds has been distributed to states hard hit by tornadoes, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) directors were told here.

Paul Adkins, director of HMB department of Christian social ministries, the board's disaster relief agency, told the HMB executive committee the \$36,000 was just a drop in the bucket compared to the hundreds of millions of dollars in damage caused by the storms.

"But at least it shows Southern Baptists care and want to let others know they are concerned when other people are hurting," Adkins said.

In business session the HMB directors appointed 18 to mission posts (8 missionaries and 10 missionary associates), and ratified the election of Gerald Palmer as director of the board's program implementation section.

Emergency funds dispensed through April 11 included \$10,000 to South Carolina for damages caused by a March storm, \$3,000 to Ohio, \$5,000 to Kentucky, \$5,000 to Indiana, \$10,000 to Alabama and \$3,000 to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., for emergency relief for students and faculty.

Adkins, who toured the Louisville area and the storm-stricken seminary campus, said states granted emergency relief funds were being asked to match the amounts. Alabama, he noted, already had raised \$26,000.

The HMB directors voiced their approval of the distribution of the funds.

HMB President, Russell Dilday, pastor of Atlanta's Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, told the executive committee Palmer had been elected to his new position in a poll of the directors.

Palmer has been associated with the board for some 16 years and since 1960 has been one of four regional coordinators.

As director of program implementation, Palmer will provide supervision and direction for the largest of the board's three sections. It includes the divisions of evangelism, missions, chaplaincy, church loans and associational service.

Palmer, a native of Wisconsin, is a graduate of Northwestern Bible College and Seminary and Hardin-Simmons University.

He has served as a pastor in Colorado and as a superintendent of missions and state director of missions in New Mexico.

He was director of Spanish and Indian work for the board in New Mexico from 1957 to 1959 and was associate secretary and then secretary of the board's department of language missions from 1960 to 1970, before becoming a regional coordinator.

The shift of Palmer to director of the section will mean no additional personnel. His regional coordinating duties will be distributed among the remaining three coordinators.

The shift resulted from the change in HMB administrative structure approved by the board of directors in March. Fred Moseley, who previously had served as both the HMB's assistant executive director and also as director of the program implementation section, was relieved of the section responsibilities to enable him to give full time to being assistant executive director.