



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**---FEATURES**  
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## Helicopters Fly Patients To Eku Baptist Hospital

By Mrs. John F. McCoy

EKU, Nigeria (BP)--The traditional bush hospital image no longer applies to Eku Baptist Hospital.

True, it is still located in the rural bush area, with its African life style and few modern conveniences, but now the hospital's outreach is international with the addition of a heliport.

The converted soccer field adjacent to the hospital may not be recognized as a heliport until one of the helicopters lands bringing the sick or injured in need of immediate medical care. The patient may be a Nigerian or one of a dozen other nationalities that have arrived in Eku by helicopter in the past few years.

Helicopter service is provided by several major oil companies for their employees in Nigeria. The oil boom came to Nigeria about ten years ago and today involves many international companies with thousands of employees.

Eku seems to some an unlikely place for a hospital. Once isolated, Eku is now in a strategic place--on the edge of the oil-rich Niger River Delta and off-shore regions of the midwestern state.

Roads to Eku were not paved until 1966 and the ride is, even now, neither speedy nor smooth. Nevertheless, the hospital has grown from a 24-bed unit in 1950 to a 163-bed referral hospital with four missionary doctors and one Nigerian doctor.

Since its beginning, thousands of critically ill or injured Nigerians have come to Eku Baptist Hospital for treatment. They have come by foot, bicycle, truck, taxi, motorbike, bus and canoe from places where no adequate health facilities are located.

Now through the means of the helicopters of American oil companies, the service of the hospital has been extended to an international clientele.

Gulf Oil Company, among the first to use the hospital's facilities, has a dispensary at its Lagos office, about 250 miles from Eku, and a sick-bay at Escravos Terminal, 75 miles west of Eku.

A nursing staff is stationed at each place, but when an employee from the oil fields needs hospitalization for illness or injury, he is flown to Eku by helicopter. The flight from Escravos takes only 30 minutes by jet-ranger helicopter.

In addition to its own employees, Gulf often receives patients arriving on tankers, including sailors from around the world.

Many Gulf employees have taken a personal interest in the work of the hospital and Gulf's medical director, Dr. A. Homes Pickering, has been a personal friend to several doctors here.

It was Gulf that installed a radio for the hospital to receive messages about patients coming by helicopter. This radio has not only met the needs of Gulf, but has given missionaries a link with other mission stations that was not available before because there are no phones in Eku.

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Missionary N. Brannan Eubanks summarized the benefit of this service. "It provides an opening to people who are without a Christian witness," he said.

The international nature of the new outreach occasionally has created a language barrier. Caring communicates, however, and sometimes the missionaries get lucky, as with an oriental man with severe burns. Missionary Dr. Martha Hagood, previously a missionary in Japan for 13 years, could speak to him in his native language. Imagine his surprise to hear Japanese in the bush country of Nigeria.

Even though the helicopters may land several times a week, it is always an exciting event. Everyone in the village watches. Night flying is prohibited in Nigeria so when a helicopter comes at night the hospital knows it is a real emergency.

Jesus Christ's command to go to the uttermost parts of the earth has brought medical missionaries to serve in the isolated bush of Nigeria.

Now, the world comes to Eku, Nigeria, via helicopter.

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Mrs. John F. McCoy is a Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state paper editors

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Home Mission Board  
Names Mission Personnel

4/15/74

ATLANTA (BP)--Eight missionaries and 19 missionary associates were appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) here for service in seven states.

Appointed missionaries were Donald and Janell Brent of Silver City, N.M., Jon and Deanna Gilbert of Yorktown, Ind., Joe and Betty Jean Peterson of Yampa, Colo., and Burt and Karyn Purvis of Clearwater, Fla.

Missionary associates appointed were Burvell and Elva Jones of Morrison, Okla., Mrs. Martha Mora of Artesia, N.M., Bob and Darlene Payne of Phoenix, Ariz., Herbert and Aurelia Retta of Lyon, Miss., Fabian Sena of Santa Fe, N.M., and Leland and Gertrude Warr n of Hammond, Ind.

Brent was appointed superintendent of missions for Rio Grande Baptist Association in New Mexico, a joint appointment with the Baptist Convention of New Mexico State Convention. He has been pastor of Silver City, N.M., since 1968.

Gilbert, currently pastor of Yorktown Baptist Church, Yorktown, Ind., will be pastor-director at Williamsport Baptist Church, Williamsport, Pa.

Peterson, a missionary associate, has been serving as the pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Yampa, Colo., since 1973. His status was changed to pastoral missionary.

Purvis, youth director at Haltom Road Baptist Church, Fort Worth, was appointed director of Christian social ministries for Pinellas Baptist Association, Clearwater, Fla. He has been jointly appointed by the Florida Baptist Convention.

All of the missionary associates were appointed by the department of language missions, HMB. Mr. and Mrs. Jones will serve in Hammond, Ind., and Mrs. Pena in Artesia, N.M., where her husband is pastor of a Spanish church.

The Paynes will serve as field workers among the Indians in Arizona. The Rettas were appointed for work with the Spanish in Clarksdale, Miss., Sena to work with Spanish-speaking students in New Mexico, Warren to be the pastor of a Spanish church in Hammond, Ind.

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Baptists Rush Aid  
To Ohio Storm Victims

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Baptist donations totaling \$8,000 and truckloads of food and clothing were rushed to aid storm victims in Xenia, Ohio after tornadoes struck several states April 3.

A large moving van carried clothing and other staples on April 8 to the Red Cross emergency distribution center in Xenia.

Two other smaller trucks left even earlier with clothing and food collected by Baptist churches over the state to help the needs of sufferers in the worst hit area of the state where the tornadoes struck.

Bill Slagle, state Brotherhood director; Mrs. Becie Kirkwood, state director of Woman's Missionary Union; and Grady Evans, student ministries director--all of the staff of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio--served as an ad hoc committee coordinating relief efforts. Churches sent clothing and food to the Baptist Building here, where it was picked up by a Bekins Moving and Storage van.

The owner of the local Bekins company donated the trailer-tractor rig, plus the services of a driver and helper to transport the materials to Xenia.

The overflow was placed in two church buses and sent to the Mason-Mt. Pisgah area in Cincinnati where the storms also struck. Greater Dayton Baptist Association, where Xenia is located, sent \$5,000 to help with relief work immediately after the storm. Dr. Ray E. Roberts, executive secretary of Baptists in Ohio, phoned the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) with a request for aid. The HMB forwarded a check for \$3,000 to go with \$1,000 from the Ohio convention to share in the overall donation of \$5,000.

A later donation of \$1,000 from the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) was placed with about \$2,000 contributed by Ohio churches to bring the total financial aid from Baptists to victims in the area to approximately \$8,000.

L. H. Moore, editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger, news publication of the Ohio convention, said the relief money is being channeled through the convention to the American Red Cross, except \$1,000 each to go to Dayton Avenue Baptist Church and Arrowbrook Baptist Church, both in Xenia (part of the overall \$8,000).

"We are appreciative of the BWA taking an awareness of the need and helping in it, also to the Home Mission Board and others who have contributed." Moore said this is the first time, to his recollection, that the BWA has contributed to relief in the Midwestern United States.

"Usually, their relief efforts are concentrated outside the United States," he said.

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Public Financing Passes  
Senate; House Outlook Dim

4/15/74

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate has passed a bill which would provide public financing of federal elections for the first time in American political history.

The measure passed the upper House by a 53-32 vote, following 13 days of debate dominated by a filibuster led by Sen. James B. Allen (D.-Ala.).

Despite the victory for proponents of public financing of federal elections in the Senate vote, the measure faces stiff opposition in the House of Representatives. President Nixon has insisted that even if the House were to pass legislation providing for public financing, he would veto it.

The Senate measure drew immediate support from a variety of groups pushing for election reforms in the wake of the Watergate scandals.

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One such organization, the Religious Committee for Integrity in Government, had sought such a measure. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, an agency created by joint action of the Southern Baptist Convention and other Baptist denominations, is one of 20 bodies which has joined the Religious Committee for Integrity in Government.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, stated, "The Senate has taken an historic and, I believe, a significant step toward the goal of assuring integrity in government through campaign reform."

Wood commented that in his view, "the first step to be taken toward assuring integrity in government is campaign reform."

The need for public financing, Wood asserted, is due to the growing influence which large corporations and wealthy individuals have exerted in national politics through large contributions. Wood noted recent reports in the public press that some 90 per cent of all contributions in national elections comes from the richest one per cent of the electorate as an "indication of the desperate need for campaign reform."

Wood insisted that the ultimate tragedy of Watergate is the loss of public confidence in government. "Any restoration of public confidence in the nation's political process," he said following the Senate vote, "must include high priority to campaign reform, including some form of public financing of all federal elections."

The Senate bill provides full government financing to major party candidates for federal office. Each candidate would then have the option of relying entirely on private contributions or on a combination of public and private financing.

Minor party or independent candidates could claim federal monies in proportion to their share of the popular vote in the prior election if they had earned five per cent of the vote, or in the current election if they had not previously run for office.

In primary election campaigns, candidates desiring public financing could take advantage of a program calling for matching funds.

The plan, which would provide funds for presidential, senatorial and congressional campaigns, would be financed from the \$1 income tax checkoff system established by Congress in 1971 for presidential elections. It would take effect with the 1976 campaigns.

In addition, the Senate measure would limit individual contributions, fix strict limits on campaign spending, require financial disclosures from top officials in all three branches of government, and impose broadcast restrictions during political campaigns.

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Arkansas' Lt. Gov. Leads  
Inn Worship Each Sunday

4/15/74

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Arkansas Lt. Governor Bob Riley, a Baptist, believes that "proclaiming the 'Good News' is every Christian's duty."

True to his own words, Riley does his "proclaiming each Sunday at the Holiday Inn here where he leads in worship services for guests, employees and other persons.

The service is part of the outreach ministry of First Baptist Church, Arkadelphia. Nathan Porter, formerly of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staff, is the inn chaplain and the pastor of First Church.

Riley says, "The ministry concerns itself with going where the people are."

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#### CORRECTION

In Baptist Press release dated 4/12/74, graph 9 should read "Palmer has been associated with the board for some 16 years and since 1971. . ." (instead of 1960).

Thanks.

--Baptist Press