



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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74-52

September 27, 1974

## WMU and Pastors Plan Joint Session in Miami Beach

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and Pastors Conference will hold a joint session to open their June 8-9, 1975 meetings prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) here.

The first joint session ever held by the two groups will be Sunday evening, June 8, in the Miami Beach Convention Center, according to Mrs. R.L. Mathis, president of WMU, and James L. Pleitz, president of the Pastors Conference. The SBC will meet here June 10-12.

The Pastors Conference and WMU decided to join forces for the Sunday evening session in order to share the only meeting place in Miami Beach large enough to handle the crowd expected, Mrs. Mathis and Pleitz said.

Theme for the session will be "One World, One Witness." Highlighting the program will be a commissioning service for new foreign missionaries, to be conducted by officials of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Pleitz, the pastor of First Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., said "Having one great meeting on mission support will show that pastors and WMU leaders are on the same team. This will be a good kickoff for our meetings."

He said the program will have wide appeal because a missionary commissioning service has never been held in the Miami area. Mrs. Mathis, from Waco, Tex., said the commissioning service was planned in response to requests by local Baptist leaders.

"We are pleased with the prospect of filling the 16,000 seats of the convention center with people who love missions," she said.

-30-

Jane Hix Named to  
WMU Consultant Post

9/27/74

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Miss Jane Hix, director of the adult division for the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) for the Arkansas Baptists, has been named consultant for Baptist Young Women for the national WMU, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Miss Hix, who will do field work and planning for women ages 18-29, is a magna cum laude graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, a Baptist school in Abilene, Tex., where she was the first woman student government president.

During college years, she directed Girls in Action and Acteens summer camps for the WMU of New Mexico Baptists. While she was earning a master's degree in religious education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, she did field work for the WMU in the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A native of Lubbock, Tex., she is listed in the current edition of Outstanding Young Women of America.

-30-

### CORRECTION

In Baptist Press mailing dated 9/24/74, headlined "Miss America: She Prayed for Help 'Just to Do My Best,'" in the 12th graph, please change the sentence to read:

She has attended the First Baptist Church of Denton since she was three weeks old. . . when my mother enrolled me in the cradle roll--(instead of "She has been a member. . .").

Thanks

--Baptist Press

**Graham Celebrates Silver  
Anniversary with Crusade**

HOLLYWOOD (BP)--The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Graham's first nationally publicized crusade with services at the Hollywood Bowl, earmarked all offerings beyond actual expenses for famine relief.

Not only were the surroundings different from the 6,000 capacity tent pitched in Los Angeles in 1949, but the well-known evangelist drew larger crowds, attracted more young people (over one third attending were under 25) and received the backing of more churches. The anniversary services were video-taped for later prime-time television programs.

While many things were different, one thing stayed the same. Graham, a Southern Baptist, repeatedly gave God the credit for the unprecedented opportunities for ministries of his team as he proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ at each of the three services.

Each night's program clinched Graham's attitude with part of a Fanny Crosby verse printed on top: "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice. . . And give Him the glory, Great things He hath done."

-30-

**Ham Operator Provides Link  
Between FMB and Honduras**

9/27/74

By John Rutledge

FORT WORTH (BP)--Hoyt Roberts was in the right place when Hurricane Fifi struck Honduras September 19.

If he had been working at his usual job as a field evangelist in La Ceiba, he would have been cut off without supplies or any way to help the refugees left homeless by the disaster.

But Roberts was in Fort Worth on furlough and became a ham radio link between the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., and the missionaries in Honduras.

"As soon as I heard the hurricane had struck I got in touch with several ham operators in Fort Worth," Roberts said. "The first day I spent three hours listening on a phone patch. I had daily contact with hams in Honduras and received information about Baptist families."

He and his wife, Louise, left Honduras in June to go to Fort Worth where he is auditing some courses at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

One day, he went to his missions class, despite oral surgery the day before, to give a report on conditions in Honduras. He then continued his daily contact with the ham operators, this time on a station in the SBC's Radio and Television Commission.

He had praise for the amateur radio operators, called "hams," who were helping coordinate relief operations in the United States and Honduras.

"I knew the condition of our missionaries in La Ceiba even before our people in Tegucigalpa (the capital)," he said, "all because of ham operators."

Roberts explained that most of the damage and deaths were caused by flood waters and 14-foot tides pushed inland by the hurricane.

Water from torrential rains swept down the mountains and destroyed bridges. "There was nowhere for the water to go," he said.

Most of the estimated 7,500 deaths were along the northern coastline near Choloma. Down the coast in Roberts' base town, La Ceiba, about 100 died.

"There was no loss of life in our church. In La Ceiba all 15 Baptist families have been evacuated," he said.

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C. Grady Nowell, missionary in San Pedro Sula, broke into the static on the radio and reported they were distributing relief food in the area.

"Do you know that the Foreign Mission Board has sent relief supplies to San Pedro Sula?" Roberts asked.

"Yeah, we've got that all squared away," Nowell replied.

Another operator in California came in with a message from someone from the Honduran Consulate in Oakland--"They are working to get supplies through, but there are transportation problems. Only two planes are available to ship supplies, but they are coming."

Then an urgent message came from Hawaii. Someone wanted to know the conditions in Tela, a coastal town near the hardest hit area.

The Honduran operator replied:

"There's still not too much out of Tela. There's a lot of damage but no casualties, as far as I know. There are no telephones and communications are very bad."

Roberts came back on:

"Have telephones been restored in San Pedro Sula?"

"No."

"Have you seen Leslie (Baptist Missionary Leslie Keyes)?" he asked.

"They are going to go to El Progreso with Dr. Harms," the operator said, and explained that Dr. W. David Harms, Baptist missionary in Tegucigalpa, had transmitted a list of medical supplies he needed to someone in Chicago with the medical assistance program.

Roberts asked if the death toll estimate of 7,500 was accurate, and the operator verified.

"The death toll may go beyond the estimate. It's difficult to estimate that until the water goes down and the rural people are accounted for."

In a later conversation with Nowell's wife, Betty, Roberts learned that Dr. Harms delivered a baby in the airport and that a medical clinic had been established in El Progreso in the home of a church member.

The Honduran government, she said, was asking that no more doctors enter the country. They had more doctors than they could supply with medical facilities.

Roberts said he told the ham operator the first day, "You don't know how handicapped I feel." The operator replied he felt even more handicapped, being cut off and without the supplies or skills to help the refugees.

"We discussed this in missions class. It would be cruel to say that God sent the hurricane to kill 8,000 people. But it may be a door opening to the hearts of the people."

I think mostly of the physical effects," he continued. "Transportation will be only by air and that will be costly. A new highway from Tela to La Ceiba completed in 1970 was completely destroyed.

"This will paralyze mission work to a degree."