



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 10, 1974

Texas Baptists Dispatch  
Disaster Unit to Honduras

74-60

DALLAS (BP)--A disaster relief mobile unit, laden with emergency supplies, has left here with an eight-man task force to minister to flood and storm victims in hurricane-ravaged Honduras.

The unit, owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, can serve up to 12,000 meals per day and will stay in Honduras as long as needed.

The self-contained tractor-trailer rig has a complete kitchen, refrigeration, generators capable of running a hospital, shortwave radio equipment, water supply, first aid equipment, crew living facilities, boat, trailbike and tools.

The crew and unit have been ready to roll since Hurricane Fifi struck Honduras in mid-September and Mrs. Rosagentina Pinel Smith, Honduras consul in San Antonio, Tex., appealed to the two-million-member Texas Baptist convention for help.

Recent heavy rains have deluged Honduras, compounding the problems for the hard-hit country. With the onslaught of rain, Mrs. Smith--a member of San Antonio's First Baptist Church--renewed her appeal.

"Texas Baptist associations and churches have an opportunity to provide minimal food needs that will spell the difference between life and death for vast numbers of people," said James H. Landes, Texas Baptist executive secretary.

The primary function of the emergency relief unit and crew will be to feed hungry and homeless people. The crew has stored food aboard the truck and arrangements have been made for additional purchases of food.

"Among many of the 55,000 homeless families, hunger is an ever present enemy," Landes said.

Funds to support the massive relief effort are being raised among Texas Baptists.

The unit will be driven across Mexico and Belize--formerly British Honduras--and put aboard an oil company barge for the final leg of the journey to San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The effort marks the first time Texas Baptist relief workers have been involved in international relief. Previously, the unit has been used in emergency relief in hurricane, tornado and flood stricken areas of Texas.

Robert E. Dixon, executive secretary for the statewide Texas Baptist Men (TBM), will direct the unit's operation. Dan Martin, press director for Texas Baptists, and Steve Wall, photographer for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, will relay reports back through the unit's two-way radio and compile other editorial and photographic coverage.

Unit task force members, besides Dixon, are Jerry Bob Taylor, TBM associate; Cameron Byler, former TBM associate and now manager of Zephyr Baptist Encampment; James Hatley, associate in the Texas Baptist missions support section; Ernie Leibig, recreation director at Dallas' Park Cities Baptist Church; Bill Arnold, vice president of TBM from Dallas; Charles Elliott, TBM vice president from Midland; H.E. Crawford, layman from Brady.

The crew will be met in Belize by Eugene Grubbs, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's consultant for laymen overseas. Grubbs will represent the board in surveying needs for reconstruction of devastated buildings, looking toward recruitment of Southern Baptist volunteer laymen in the reconstruction efforts.

Home Mission Board Appoints  
26 Missionary Personnel

ATLANTA (BP)--Seven missionaries and 19 missionary associates were appointed to serve in five states by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board at its fall meeting here.

Sixteen were appointed by the department of language missions to serve in Texas in Spanish language work. All missionary associates, they include the following:

Enrique and Rosa Irene Alvarado of Boerne, Tex., who will work in Rocksprings, Tex.; Alfredo and Rosa Ena Bahena of San Benito, Tex., who will work in San Benito; Arturo and Marlene Casco of Santa Rosa, Tex., who will work in Santa Rosa; Ramior and Maria Espinoza of Big Wells, Tex., who will work in San Antonio;

Also, Basilio and Pauline Esquivel of Big Springs, Tex., who will work in Big Springs; Ruben and Dora Gonzalez of San Saba, Tex., who will continue to work in San Saba; Eulalio and Josephine Guerrero of Cotulla, Tex., who will work in Cotulla; and Juan and Olga Valdez of San Antonio who will work as students in Yorktown, Tex.

Ten were appointed by the department of Christian social ministries. Missionaries appointed included Ren B. and Judy Nell Adams of Auburndale, Fla., to be consultants in Salt Lake City; Daniel and Nadine Elsom of Abilene, Tex., for service in Dallas, where he will direct urban training; Ethel Mae Haddock of Houston, Tex., assistant director of the Baptist center in Houston; and Arlie L. McDaniel Jr. and Onita Ruth McDaniel of San Francisco, to work in San Francisco, where he will serve as pastor-director at First Southern Baptist Church.

Associates appointed included George M. Gera of Louisville, Ky., to a student internship; and Fred and Nelda Wright of Pawhuska, Okla., director of the Oklahoma City Baptist Center.

-30-

Baptist Agency and President  
Ford Conflict on Tax Aid

10/10/74

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The views of President Gerald Ford and those of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs on federal aid to parochial schools came into open conflict on the same day here.

At its semi-annual meeting the Baptist Joint Committee instructed its staff to oppose tax credits for contributions to religious bodies. It called for an in-depth study and analysis of the principles involved in such a position on tax credits.

At his press conference the same day, President Ford re-iterated his long-held views favoring federal aid to parochial schools.

The president was asked, "Specifically, what are your views on federal aid to private and parochial schools?"

"I have personally expressed, over a long period of time," Ford replied, "that I think a tax credit proposal is a good proposal." He then attacked the Supreme Court decision of last year which declared such a program to be unconstitutional. "I would hope that we could find some constitutional way in which to help private schools," the President concluded.

This line follows precisely the course frequently espoused by former President Nixon, who was most vocal in his support for federal aid to parochial schools.

A month and a half before the meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee, James E. Wood Jr., the agency's executive director, wrote to President Ford requesting a meeting with him during its October session. Wood explained in his letter to the President that this request for a consultation was in line with his announced plans to keep open the lines of communication between citizens groups and the White House.

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In turning down the Baptist request for a meeting with the President at this time, the White House assured Wood that there is a possibility of a consultation sometime after the first of the year.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is maintained in the nation's capital by eight national Baptist bodies in the United States, including the Southern Baptist Convention. It is authorized "to act in the field of public affairs whenever the interests or rights of the cooperating conventions which constitute the committee call for conference or negotiation" with governments.

The committee specifically instructed its staff to oppose a bill (or any similar proposal) introduced in Congress by Rep. H. John Heinz (R.-Pa.). Heinz would provide to taxpayers tax credits for religious and charitable contributions. Under the Heinz bill, a taxpayer could choose either the present deduction for charitable contributions or a tax credit for 50 per cent of his or her charitable contributions, whichever is most beneficial to each taxpayer.

Heinz, who first introduced his bill June 28 and reintroduced it on Sept. 25, explained his objective by saying that it would "provide a badly needed boost to American taxpayers and to American churches and charitable organizations in the continuing struggle against inflation."

Earlier, Wood attacked the Heinz proposal as violative of the voluntary principle in church support by substituting financial aid to churches by governmental action. Wood made a clear distinction between a tax deduction in figuring one's income that is subject to taxation and a tax credit which is a direct payment by the government to the taxpayer for a religious or charitable contribution.

In a new and wide-ranging policy position on "taxation and religious bodies," the Baptist Joint Committee reaffirmed its 1969 policy position that churches not be subject to property taxes on that part of their property which is used for their religious mission.

The extended tax policy position of the Baptist Joint Committee maintains:

1. That religious bodies, as members of the broad class of not-for-profit organizations, must enjoy no less rights and privileges than those accorded to other members of that class;
2. That the U.S. Constitution requires that religious programs and church income derived from other than unrelated business enterprises be exempt from taxation by government on all levels;
3. That churches, associations of churches or conventions of churches must define for themselves the nature and scope of their religious mission;
4. That churches should pay as a consumer for consumer services, such as water, sewer, etc., but that government should not tax church property or income nor that of other not-for-profit organizations to pay for general services to the public, such as fire and police protection;
5. That tax deductibility for contributions to the broad class of not-for-profit organizations including religious bodies, is both wise and constitutional public policy; and
6. That the tax exempt status of religious bodies engaging in activities related to legislation and the public discussion of public policy should not be threatened or revoked.

-30-

Rutledge Named Joint  
Committee Chairman

10/10/74

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, meeting here in its semiannual session, elected as its new chairman a Southern Baptist, celebrated its 35th anniversary at a special dinner and adopted a position on human rights in American foreign policy.

The Baptist group, comprised of representatives from nine different Baptist conventions

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and conferences in the United States and Canada, also heard one of its associate directors warn against a new proposal in Congress to involve government in sponsorship of devotional exercises in the nation's public school classrooms.

Arthur B. Rutledge, executive director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was named new chairman of the Joint Committee. Rutledge has served as a member of the Washington-based body since 1964.

Other officers named for 1974-75 were: first vice-chairman, Robert Torbet, ecumenical officer of the American Baptist Churches in the USA; second vice-chairman, Charles G. Adams, the pastor of Hartford Avenue Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich., a church affiliated with the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., and the American Baptist Churches; and recording secretary, Donald E. Anderson, editor of The Standard, official publication of the Baptist General Conference.

The Baptist agency observed the 35th anniversary of its founding in 1939 with a dinner at Washington's First Baptist Church featuring an address by Brooks Hays, former congressman from Arkansas and member of the Joint Committee during the years he served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

In 1939, three national Baptist bodies, the SBC, the Northern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, adopted a historic statement, "The American Baptist Bill of Rights: A Pronouncement Upon Religious Liberty."

The document tells the story of Baptist involvement during the constitutional period of American history in the push for inclusion in the Constitution of a strong declaration on religious liberty. That guarantee is asserted in the religious clauses of the First Amendment.

Also in 1939, the Northern Baptist Convention (now the American Baptist Churches in the USA), approved a plan calling for its committee on public affairs to begin cooperating with a similar Southern Baptist group.

Hays' address reviewed what he called the "triumphs Baptists have had" during the former congressman's lifetime. These include triumphs over Landmarkism, isolationism and anti-intellectualism, he said. He also urged Baptists to continue to contend for a free pulpit and to support those denominational agencies which can work for the redemption of society.

The new position supporting human rights in American foreign policy was adopted unanimously by the Joint Committee following a speech by Executive Director James E. Wood Jr.

Wood noted that although the United Nations adopted the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" over 25 years ago, two-thirds of the world's people today "are denied these basic human rights and freedoms." The U.N. document, adopted in 1948, was an attempt to draw up a statement of goals for human rights which would apply to every individual. It was not a treaty or legal document.

Wood noted two recent developments which he said give encouragement to a renewed emphasis on the subject. Within the U.N., a World Human Rights Council has been proposed "to review and assess impartially on a regular basis the status of human rights of member nations," Wood said.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, a subcommittee of the committee on foreign affairs chaired by Rep. Donald M. Fraser (D.-Minn.), released a report earlier this year stating, "The human rights factor is not accorded the high priority it deserves in our country's foreign policy."

The Fraser report includes 29 recommendations directed toward U.S. foreign policy and U.N. machinery to promote human rights. Among the recommended actions is one which requests the Department of State to create an office for human rights with personnel assigned to each regional bureau.

The Fraser report, which has met with broad acceptance within the state department, also recommends the creation of an advisory committee on human rights to advise the department with respect to human rights issues.

In its previous meeting in March, the Joint Committee adopted a similar but more general statement affirming "the equality of all persons under the law without respect to race, religion, color, sex or national origin."

W. Barry Garrett, associate director in charge of information services of the Joint Committee, scored a bill in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Jesse Helms (R.-N.C.) which would limit the jurisdiction of the U.S. Supreme Court and federal district courts in cases involving "voluntary prayer" in public schools.

Helms' proposal would prohibit the federal courts from entering any judgment, decree, or order forbidding such prayer on constitutional grounds.

Garrett said that Helms' proposal represents an attempt to achieve in Congress what "so far has not been achievable by constitutional amendment." He referred to numerous efforts in recent years to overturn the Supreme Court's 1962 and 1963 decisions on school prayer by amending the Constitution.

Referring to Helms' speech in the Senate when he introduced the new measure, Garrett insisted that Helms' proposal is premised on the "false assumption" that the Supreme Court decisions on school prayer prohibit outright all expressions of religion in the nation's schools.

The proposal also "makes possible a limited establishment of religion," Garrett said. He criticized the measure further as being a "simplistic approach to a most complex problem" in that it fails to address the larger problem of the place of religion in the public school curriculum and the role of the churches in public education.

The Baptist Joint Committee recently published a new pamphlet, "Religion in the Public School Classroom," which suggests alternatives to government-sponsored devotional exercises. At its meeting, the committee officially commended the pamphlet and urged its wide distribution not only to Baptists but to school officials across the nation as well.

-30-

Board Sets \$45 Million Budget  
And \$100,000 for World Relief

10/10/74

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, in its major meeting of the year, voted a \$45,532,061 budget, approved the division of South America into two new administrative areas and appointed 27 missionaries.

The board also appropriated \$100,000 from 1974 Cooperative Program challenge funds to serve as a fund for relief needs throughout the world. An additional \$10,000 was designated for relief in Honduras.

At the same time, the board recognized that additional information needs to be communicated with Southern Baptists about the Foreign Mission Board's role as a channel for relief funds to needy areas of the world.

In addition, the board heard reports from its executive secretary, area secretaries and a summary of the results of a recently conducted foreign missions awareness survey.

The 1975 budget exceeds that of 1974 by \$3,106,777. Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary, explained, "This \$45 million budget on the one hand is a very joyful one because it tells a story of continued outreach in 81 countries. It's a sad budget on the other hand because it tells a story of what inflation is doing.

"It takes more money to do what we did last year because of inflation," he continued. "Our problem is three-fold. We have inflation in the United States, equally severe if not more severe inflation in the countries where we have work, plus the declining purchasing power of the American dollar abroad."

Cauthen emphasized to board members that over 90 per cent of the budget will be used overseas while less than 10 per cent will be spent for administrative and promotional purposes at home.

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The division of South America into two administrative areas will be effective Jan. 1, 1975. The new areas, divided by the Andes Mountains, are Western South America and Eastern South America.

The western division includes Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. Frank K. Means, now secretary for South America, will become secretary for Eastern South America, including Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay.

The board's president, W.O. Vaught, will appoint an area committee to oversee the work of Western South America and to recommend a secretary for work in that area. Means will continue to work with both areas until a new secretary is elected.

Charles W. Bryan, secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, presented an encouraging report about Baptist response after Hurricane Fifi hit the Caribbean coast of Honduras. He told of immediate steps missionaries took to help the survivors with medical, food and shelter needs and of the board's role in providing resources for relief efforts.

Bryan suggested the need for even quicker, more thorough response. "The Foreign Mission Board desperately needs a disaster response procedure to better meet needs in time of disaster abroad," he said.

Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the mission support division, reported on a recently completed telephone survey designed to measure foreign missions awareness and attitudes among members of Southern Baptist churches.

The survey, conducted by an independent research organization commissioned by the Foreign Mission Board, involved 1,022 interviews among members of 100 churches. Both churches and interviewees were selected on a random basis.

Strong support of foreign missions was evident in the survey results, Fletcher said.

Among the findings, he reported that the pastor is the most frequently mentioned source of foreign missions information, followed closely by Woman's Missionary Union and state Baptist papers. Findings also revealed that 90 per cent of those surveyed believe foreign missions deserves continued support by church members; that one-third of the interviewees indicated they receive too little information about foreign missions, especially in the area of board finances; and that awareness and support of foreign missions is strongest among church leaders.

"We are encouraged by the general support of foreign missions evident in the survey," Fletcher said. "However, we also recognize some areas of information sharing where improvement is needed, and we will devote our efforts to correcting these areas of deficiency."

In honor of Miss Alma Hunt, recently retired as executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, the board held a luncheon in recognition of her 26 years of service in that position.

Among those appointed as missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Brake of Oklahoma and Kansas, assigned to Paraguay; Miss Jo Von Bryan of Texas, to Kenya; Miss Gwen Crofts of Texas, to Hong Kong; Mr. and Mrs. David M. Dorris of Tennessee and Kentucky, to Bangladesh; Mr. and Mrs. O. Eugene Eller Jr. of Virginia, to Jordan; and Mr. and Mrs. Milton E.H. Ertelt Jr. of Michigan and Texas, to Malawi.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Hardie of Alabama and Georgia, to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. James D. Hausler of Oklahoma and Texas, to Paraguay; Miss Karen Hopper of Washington, to the Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. William E. Koehn of Kansas, to Yemen; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde D. Meador of Arkansas and Texas, to Indonesia; Miss Judy Robertson of Arkansas, to Taiwan; Mr. and Mrs. William W. Smith of Virginia and Texas, to Thailand; and Miss Jean White of Virginia, to Yemen.

Employed as missionary associates were Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Baugh of North and South Carolina, to Zambia, and Dr. and Mrs. Darrell F. Osborne of Canada, to Nigeria.

## WMU Reorganizes; Hires Male Editorial Supervisor

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--The national office of the Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention auxiliary, has announced a staff reorganization and the employment of Lawrence E. Webb as the first male supervisor of professional personnel in its history.

The reorganization was announced here by Mrs. R.L. Mathis, WMU president, and Miss Carolyn Weatherford, new WMU executive secretary.

Earlier announcement was made to WMU employees before Miss Alma Hunt, WMU executive secretary for 26 years, retired October 5. The WMU executive board authorized the reorganization and personnel changes after a nine month study by its finance and personnel committee, chaired by Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., president of the Virginia WMU.

The committee worked with Miss Hunt, Miss Weatherford and a management consultant firm before recommending the new structure.

Mrs. Lee N. (Catherine) Allen, who had been director of public relations, and Miss June Whitlow, former education division director, were named assistants to the executive secretary. Mrs. Allen will direct employee and public relations and Miss Whitlow will direct planning and research.

The education division will be headed by Miss Bobbie Sorrill, who had supervised the general WMU administration department. Age group departments within the division have been reconstructed into a promotion department and an editorial department.

Webb, associate pastor in education and youth for First Baptist Church, Toccoa, Ga., will head the editorial department, which consists of editors and artists of WMU's publications. Webb, former public relations secretary for the Georgia Baptist Convention, is the only new employee named in the reorganization.

Miss Adrienne Bonham, former supervisor of the adult department, declined a supervisory position and asked to edit special publications for adults. She will serve in a new position as products editor in the editorial department.

Miss Evelyn Blount, former supervisor of the youth department, will direct the promotion department, made up of consultants for WMU's age-level organizations.

WMU's business division has also been reorganized. La Venia Neal, former business division director, has been named treasurer for the national office and will supervise accounting operations.

A newly created customer services division will include departments which handle subscriptions and other literature orders. Miss Mary Hines will direct the division and coordinate mechanical production of WMU's publications.

Miss Hines served as supervisor of children and preschool work until recently, when she was named production manager.

Two former education division employees, Miss Bernice Elliott and Miss Doris DeVault, have been placed in the WMU's administration division. Miss Elliott will be Miss Weatherford's associate in new areas of Southern Baptist work, and Miss DeVault will be coordinator of special services, including WMU's library.

Webb, a native of Nolan, Tex., is not the first male employee of WMU, nor the first male supervisor. He is the first male supervisor of professional personnel, however, a WMU spokesman said.

Besides his role as director of public relations for Georgia Baptists, Webb formerly served as journalism instructor and news director at Anderson (S.C.) College, a Baptist school. He has held pastorates and other church staff positions in Texas, South Carolina and Florida.

During the past 10 years Webb has written extensively for WMU magazines. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has also studied at the University of Maine.