



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

---FEATURES

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"A Cup of Cold Water"
At Las Brisas Clinic

74-63

By A. Clark Scanlon

LAS BRISAS, Honduras (BP)--"Are you a reporter?"

"Yes," I responded, even though that was not my major reason for being in the hurricane ravaged area of Honduras.

"I'm glad. It's time someone told the story of the people of Las Brisas."

His bicycle settled down in the sand as he stopped hawking his newspapers to talk.

"I hope you will show pictures on television and in the newspapers to show what has happened to these people. The government hasn't noticed their needs. No clothes, no shoes, no food has come in here. Only a group of evangelicals down the street are vaccinating and giving out medicine. No one else has come to help."

The "evangelicals down the street" were Southern Baptist missionaries teaming up with young people from the Second Baptist Church of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to minister to residents of the neighborhood at the edge of the city. They had seen their houses filled with mud and, in many cases, their furnishings destroyed as a result of Hurricane Fifi.

Although the river nearby rose waist-deep in the houses, Las Brisas did not suffer the utter devastation and loss of employment experienced in some areas of the north coast. But with the water supply contaminated and mud and water standing everywhere, people needed medicine and inoculation against typhoid.

Raphael Flores, the pastor of Second Baptist Church, had gathered a medical student and two girls to work as secretaries to help the missionaries.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Wayne Wheeler, missionaries from North Carolina and Florida, pulled up under the trees in their station wagon and began to unload table tops, tables and chairs that would serve the makeshift open-air clinic. Missionary nurse Frances Crawford of Kentucky and Mr. and Mrs. Joe W. Bruce, missionaries from Texas, arrived and began carrying vaccines, antibiotics and vitamins to the tables from their vehicles. Mrs. Leslie G. Keyes of Louisiana began mixing medicines and counting pills.

Within moments the waiting crowd began taking turns for shots, consultations and medicines. From nine in the morning until dark, the line never ceased. Between 250 to 300 people were inoculated and received medicine and a word of encouragement along with gospel literature. They gave their names and addresses so the church can maintain contact and minister to them in the future.

The crowd was as varied as those serving them. An elderly man, too weak to stand, gratefully received the offer of a chair. An elderly woman with wrinkles that looked as deep as the crags on the nearby mountains sat patiently as she waited her turn along with her 10-year-old granddaughter.

Later in the morning, missionaries Robert A. Williams Jr. of Florida and Mrs. C. Grady Now 11 of North Carolina arrived. They had driven four hours through mountain roads from the capital city of Tegucigalpa. With their help and that of Linda Tamashiro, missionary journeyman from Hawaii, the organization improved and moved along even faster. Mrs. Now 11, a registered nurse, worked with a medical student, Edward Galea, giving shots, freeing Miss Crawford to administer diagnosis and treatment.

Since workers would not leave the site for lunch, Bruce brought in boxed chicken and a case of soft drinks. Wheeler quit taking names so the workers could have time to eat.

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A piercing scream brought everyone to sudden life as a young mother ran wildly under the shade of the trees and thrust a small two-year-old boy, writhing in convulsions, into Miss Crawford's arms.

Within moments, the nurse was bathing his distended little stomach in cold water and fanning him. With the help of Mrs. Nowell, she depressed his tongue and gave him a shot. All the while, the mother was calling out, "My baby, my baby." Then she rested her head on Linda Tamashiro.

As the temperature cooled, it was plain that the battle was won and the child would be all right. The people standing around nearby murmured with approval and appreciation. The child began sleeping peacefully. The group returned to their now cold box lunch.

Only as night fell did the missionaries begin to prepare to go into the Keyes' and Bruce's homes to spend the night.

The day was not the first in the life of the clinic in Las Brisas, nor would it be the last. But it was the sort of day that gave "a cup of cold water in the name of Jesus Christ" a meaning beyond an empty phrase.

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A. Clark Scanlon is the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's field representative for Middle America

(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers

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Jordan Baptist
Work Flourishes

10/16/74

By Jim Newton
for Baptist Press

Baptist missions work in Jordan got perhaps the biggest boost in its history this year--and not one boost, but three.

Baptists in Jordan during 1974:

--Opened and dedicated a new hospital building replacing the dilapidated facilities in Ajloun.

--Established and opened an elementary school in the capital city of Amman.

--Constituted and chartered the first Baptist church in Amman.

All three developments will strengthen Baptist ministries to the people of Jordan--both the poor of the countryside as well as the more prosperous and middle class people of the capital city.

Until recently, the strongest Baptist witness in Jordan has been concentrated in the northern farming and pastoral area surrounding Ajloun.

Southern Baptist missionaries first entered Jordan, a country about the size of Virginia with a population of 2 1/2 million, in 1952 to take over operation of the hospital in Ajloun.

The hospital, built in 1939 by a British doctor named Charles McClain, had been deteriorating for several years.

The building, "would have been condemned years ago in the United States," said Hospital Administrator Graydon Hardister in describing the old building.

He pointed to cracks in the wall showing evidence of sinking foundations, and explained that the hospital had been built over four huge reservoirs to catch rain water, and that the mountainside had been gradually sliding beneath the foundations.

Now, however, the hospital is in a new three-story building made of glowing white cut stone.

And unlike the old structure, all the hospital facilities are now under one roof.

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On the main floor is the outpatient clinic, pharmacy, lab, X-ray room, and two operating rooms. Below in the basement are the kitchen, dining room, storeroom and laundry. Upstairs on the top floor are 50 beds in three and four-bed wards, the obstetrics section labor room, and pediatrics section.

Although the hospital is in a new stone building, it is still handicapped by lack of adequate equipment.

Missionary doctor August Lovegren, who returned to his home in Georgia for a furlough five days after the hospital opened on Aug. 5, said the hospital moved all the old equipment from the former building to a new one. The hospital needs badly complete new X-ray equipment, new institutional laundry equipment, and a new operating table, he noted.

At present, laundry is taken from the new building by truck down the hill to the old area where the vast bulk of the washing is done by hand with huge washing tubs and rub boards.

Despite the lack of adequate equipment, the new hospital is far superior to what once had been used and is extremely functional in design, said Dr. Lovegren.

Unlike the rest of Jordan, which is 95 per cent Muslim, Ajloun is almost 50 per cent Christian.

The Ajloun Baptist Church is the largest of the six Baptist churches in Jordan but is now pastorless. The Jordanian pastor recently died of a heart attack, and the church is in the process of calling another pastor.

In addition to the hospital, Baptists also operate two schools for boys and girls. The school for girls is directed by missionary Maurine Perryman, and the school for boys is operated by the Ajloun church. They have a combined enrolment of about 350.

Baptist work began in the rural areas of Jordan due to location of the hospital. Hence, missions work has only recently spread to the big city of Amman.

Two of the three big events of 1974--constitution of the church in Amman and opening of the school in Amman--will greatly strengthen Baptist efforts in the capital city.

About two-thirds of the 2 1/2 million people of Jordan live within 50 miles of Amman, located in the Jordan River Valley, part of the area the hospital in Ajloun serves.

The First Baptist Church of Amman was constituted July 7, 1974, with 44 charter members. At present, they are meeting in two locations--the home of the pastor, Foez Omeish, and the home of a layman. And they hope to start services in still another part of town at the new Baptist elementary school.

The new school opened in September under the direction of Paul S.C. Smith, who carried the extra load of being chairman of the Jordan Mission and serving in general evangelism in Amman.

In late September, however, a Jordanian woman, Mrs. John Chao, who recently graduated from Carson-Newman (Baptist) College in Johnson City, Tenn., felt led to return to Jordan to take over as principal.

The new school is already making progress, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has enrolled his children there.

The school will be entirely self-supporting through matriculation fees and will provide additional means for Baptists to reach and minister to the middle and upper classes of Jordanian society. It will augment the ministries to the poor and rural people of the Ajloun area.

In addition to the elementary school, Baptists also operate a Book Store in Amman, and this fall missionary Joe Newton started student work efforts in the capital city.

Seeking to carry the gospel to people in Jordan is difficult, for the people are slow to respond.

There are only about 250 members in the six churches, yet there is a spirit of Christian revival among the fellowship of believers. For several years, there has been a "spirit-filled" revival in progress, observers say, in the city of Zerka, the second largest city in Jordan.

And there are 19 Southern Baptist missionaries in Jordan who say they're encouraged by the events of 1974. They feel there is great hope in the future for missions in Jordan (BP)

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

From the November, 1974, issue of World Mission Journal.

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Baptist Missionary Refutes
Attack on Honduran Officials

10/16/74

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (BP)--A Southern Baptist medical missionary here has refuted accusations made to the press by an American physician that the Honduras government has confiscated and misappropriated food, clothing and medical supplies flown here for hungry and sick villagers.

"Our experience has been exactly the opposite," said Dr. W. David Harms, Baptist missionary physician who has been coordinating the Honduran relief efforts of the medical assistance program. "The Honduran government and the Honduran military have been very helpful in allowing us to get all our medicines and goods."

Southern Baptist missionaries stationed in Honduras said they "were alarmed and distressed" by wire service news reports of an interview with Dr. Edward Austin of Coca, Fla., who had spent two weeks on a relief mission to the flood-ravaged Central American country.

Austin reportedly stated to reporters that he had been told that the government was confiscating relief supplies for its use and planning to sell them on the black market "at the price of gold." Baptist missionaries called such accusations "false and ungrounded."

"The release of the article," Harms said, "is tragic because it hurts so many people in such great need by undermining our support base--the United States."

"Government channels not only have been adequate but very good," Harms continued. "The Honduran government and army have been the organized groups that have been able to furnish warehouse space and provide a distribution system. I have seen no case of misappropriation or misuse of supplies, especially of medicine, and I've been right on top of the medicines. Food and supplies are being distributed properly."

Citing one example of the cooperation he had seen on the part of the Honduran military, Harms told of an international aircraft, loaded with supplies, that landed in San Pedro Sula at 2 a.m., just as the airport was closing. Neither Harms nor his colleagues were there to meet their shipment.

"The medicines that arrived for us were consigned erroneously to another international relief organization," Harms explained. "Intervening in our behalf, the Honduran military held our goods until the next morning when we could come."

"They have assisted in the loading and unloading of our supplies and held them in their warehouse until they could turn them over to us. That's been our personal experience over a prolonged period of time dealing with large amounts of medical supplies."

Harms also announced that the Baptist Convention of Honduras has been recognized as a relief channel by a national disaster committee that is coordinating all of the country's relief efforts.

"I think Southern Baptists can count on an open channel for sending goods into Honduras that will be properly utilized," Harms concluded. "We have the opportunity for increased checks

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and balances and the opportunity to distribute supplies much better than perhaps even the government channels."

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has more than 2,500 missionaries in 81 countries, including 19 missionaries in Honduras, and is the overseas missionary-sending agency of the 12.3-million-member Southern Baptist Convention, largest Protestant-evangelical denomination in the United States.

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Wrong Attitudes on Money
Can Be Costly to Consumer

10/16/74

By James Lee Young

NASHVILLE (BP)--A Southern Baptist expert on budgeting and economizing cautions that wrong attitudes on money and spending can be costly as the nation sets itself to wage war against inflation, per President Ford's 12-point strategy given in Kansas City.

"Although proper money management will not guarantee wealth, it will mean more happiness and a better attitude toward all of life," says Michael L. Speer, author of "A Complete Guide to the Christian's Budget," to be released in April 1975 by Broadman Press, publishing arm of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"The problem is not so much the amount of money we earn as it is how we use it," says Speer, associate executive director-treasurer and director of Cooperative Program promotion for the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

"All of us," Speer continues, "want to get the most value out of each dollar and build a secure financial future for our families. For the Christian it is imperative.

"By adhering to principles of good economizing and conservation, as Christian stewards, we can continue to provide adequately for our families, contribute to the national good, and still support the expanding and urgent ministries of our local churches and around the world through the Cooperative Program (unified budget) of Southern Baptists."

Speer cautions against what Cecil R. Ray, director of the stewardship division for Texas Baptists, calls the desire for "adult toys."

These can be houses, cars, motorcycles, boats, power tools, sports equipment--an endless list of things that aren't wrong in themselves, but "the individual's attitude toward them" is important, Speer says.

"The constant desire for more and more things and excess credit buying are two of the villains of most American families feeling financial pinch," Speer adds.

Speer, in his book, emphasizes several points cited by President Ford in the chief executive's nationally televised address before the national Future Farmers of America meeting.

Among these are: balance the family budget, learn to use credit wisely, save money where possible, conserve energy, be a wise shopper, get the most for your money, "do it yourself" where feasible, don't be wasteful, guard your health and that of your family.

The President's other points included: a plea that business and labor not raise wages or prices more than absolutely needed, that the nation work to eliminate outmoded regulations that keep costs up and to enforce laws and rules stressing safety, health and efficiency.

Ford also called for productivity improvements, balancing of governmental budgets, offsetting of pay increases, national participation in recycling of scrap materials and planting of WIN gardens "to save on produce." The President's anti-inflation program has been tagged WIN ("To Whip Inflation Now").

Speer told Baptist Press he urges adherence to all points the President stresses:

"When a Christian recognizes God as owner and himself as a trustee of God's ownership he will try to find a way to be a responsible disciple to Jesus Christ through a stewardship of all he has.

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"During times of spiraling inflation," Speer noted, "we must each strive to make the most of every available dollar by putting first things first. The New Testament makes it evident that the 'first' of which Jesus speaks is doing God's will."

Stressing "attitude" as a vital factor in individual curbing of inflation, Speer suggests an eight-point "yes" or "no" self-examination for Christians to test their attitudes toward money matters:

1--Do you lose the joy in life experiences when you are denied material comforts?

2--Are you willing to hazard the life and health of yourself or your family to secure more money or material possessions?

3--Does your job keep you from having time to serve Jesus Christ?

4--Would you accept a job you did not enjoy simply because it "paid more money?"

5--Do you argue about money matters in your home?

6--Do you try to make all the money you can because money represents power, security and freedom?

7--Are you frequently afraid that people will take advantage of you in money matters?

8--Do you spend money for things you want now rather than save for long-range goals?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of the questions, Speer suggests, "perhaps it's time to reevaluate your attitude toward money matters."

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Paschall Chairs Committee
On State Baptist Papers

10/16/74

LUBBOCK, Tex. (BP)--H. Franklin Paschall of Nashville, Tenn., will serve as chairman of a five-person committee on ministries of state Baptist news publications, according to Southern Baptist Convention President Jaroy Weber.

Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, appointed the committee at the request of messengers to the SBC last June in Dallas, who responded favorably to a motion that such a committee be named to "work with the editors of Southern Baptist Convention state papers in projecting circulation and underscoring the role and function of state papers in the life of the convention. . ."

Thirty-three state Baptist news publications, with a combined circulation of over 1.75 million, serve Southern Baptists in 33 state conventions which cover 50 states.

The committee, which will report to the 1975 convention in Miami Beach, is made up of Paschall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, and former SBC president; Andrew W. Tampling, pastor of First Baptist Church, Birmingham; Glen E. Braswell, executive secretary of the Colorado Baptist General Convention; Richard A. Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church; and Julian Pentecost, editor of the Religious Herald, Richmond, Va. Pentecost made the motion approved by the SBC in Dallas.

Weber, as convention president, will serve as an ex officio member of the committee.

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Georgia Church Ordains
Woman to the Ministry

10/16/74

DECATUR, Ga. (BP)--Miss Hazel Grady, a 20-year staff member of Oakhurst Baptist Church here, has been ordained to the ministry by the church in a Sunday morning service.

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Miss Grady, current associate minister of education at the church, has been serving part-time on the church staff while studying clinical pastoral education at Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, where she is a chaplain intern. She was fulltime educational director at the church for more than 18 years.

Believed to be the second woman ordained by a Southern Baptist church in Georgia, Miss Grady is a former vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, has served as president of both the Atlanta Baptist and Georgia Baptist Religious Education Associations and is former vice president of the Eastern Baptist Religious Education Association.

She holds an associate of arts degree from Mars Hill (N.C.) College, a bachelor of arts from Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C., and a master's degree in religious education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Before joining the Oakhurst church staff, she served as education director at First Baptist Church, Fort Thomas, Ky.

No exact figures exist on the number of women ordained by local Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation, but the total exceeds 15. The latest available information indicates that only one of these women, Mrs. Druecillar Fordham of Christ Temple Baptist Church, a black congregation in New York City, serves as a pastor. Mrs. Fordham was already serving as pastor of the church in New York when it joined the Manhattan Baptist Association in 1972. It is dually aligned with Southern Baptists and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, a black body.

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Kansas-Nebraska Baptists
Project Financial Growth

10/16/74

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)--The executive committee of the 28-year-old Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, made up of some 200 churches with 59,629 members, has recommended an annual budget of almost \$1 million--\$996,557--which represents a 29.27 per cent increase over expected receipts for 1974.

Meanwhile, the Kansas-Nebraska Southern Baptist Foundation has announced a gift which increases its assets almost 50 per cent.

The proposed budget will be presented to the annual meeting of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention, Nov. 12-14, in Overland Park, Kan. None of the budget, a convention spokesman said, will be used for buildings. Rather, "it's all people-oriented," he said.

The gift to the foundation, which will net about \$32,000 after payment of grants previously promised to First Southern Baptist Church, Kansas City, Kan., and University Baptist Church, Texarkana, Tex., comes from the Dr. Carroll V. Day and Lew V. Day Missionary Trust fund.

It will raise the foundation's assets to about \$137,000 and is the largest and first unrestricted gift in its history.

The transferred assets consist of 600 shares of J.C. Penney Company stock, and the dividends will continue to add assets to the foundation, a spokesman said. The stocks came from the estate of Lew V. Day, a Presbyterian.

Lew Day, who brother, the late Carroll Day, was the pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., for 18 years, developed a chain of dry goods stores in Washington state. Called the Golden Rule Stores, they were absorbed by J.C. Penney, which named Lew Day a vice president. He eventually left a \$12 million estate, according to Day family sources.

David A. Day, son of Carroll Day and the pastor of University Baptist Church, Texarkana, was chairman of the trustees of the Day Trust, which negotiated the transfer to the Kansas-Nebraska Southern Baptist Foundation.

It was the efforts of the younger Day in establishing the First Southern Baptist Church, Kansas City, Kan., which inspired Lew Day to originally establish the missionary trust, a spokesman said.

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