

November 8, 1974

World Suffering Shocking;
Baptist Response Growing

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By Baker J. Cauthen

RICHMOND (BP)--The world is being shocked into an awareness that human suffering of catastrophic dimensions seems to be lying ahead.

Tragic disasters--such as the famine in Africa, the hurricane in Honduras and the flood devastation in Bangladesh--have brought dramatically to the attention of the American public the needs of our fellowman.

Beyond these crisis situations, however, looms the much greater danger of the runaway population increase and the lagging food supplies. Warnings are being sounded from many quarters that an era of mass starvation may be looming on the horizon in many parts of the world.

Southern Baptists keenly desire to do whatever possible to minister to our fellowman. We are grateful that a large part of what we do in missionary service deals directly with human suffering through medical work, social services, agricultural missions and education.

These services, however, do not exhaust the sense of responsibility. Southern Baptists have responded liberally over and over again with gifts in money and substance for the direct relief of those in need.

The emergence of terrible suffering--such as the war in Korea, the war in Vietnam, earthquake in Chile, Peru or Nicaragua, the outbreak of war in the Middle East--always finds response on the part of Baptist people in gifts of love and mercy.

During the recent disaster in Honduras, large steps taken include appropriations of money, sending of doctors and other medical personnel, sending of a disaster relief unit by Texas Baptists (accompanied by a team of workers to administer direct relief) and plans for reconstruction of buildings. All have given expression to the desire to show in deed as well as in word the love of Christ.

The Foreign Mission Board has served for many years as the channel for Southern Baptist relief efforts abroad. Many will remember in 1946 that at the close of World War II, Southern Baptists gave a great offering for world relief and rehabilitation, amounting to more than \$4,000,000. The Foreign Mission Board administered this fund throughout the world and it became the means of blessing and life for vast numbers of people.

The ministry of relief calls for dealing with needs on many levels. First of all, there is the response to crisis of hunger and suffering. Food, clothing, medical care and shelter are provided as far as possible.

Second, there is the work of rehabilitation. When the storm ceases and the flood waters subside, there is the task of rebuilding homes and other structures requiring large-scale efforts.

Then there is the need to deal with the problem of increasing food supplies, calling for digging or sinking wells, providing seed, fertilizer, agricultural implements, upgrading livestock, and other steps to help people toward a better standard of living.

We must also deal with the root causes of misery, including the problem of illiteracy, sub-standard health conditions, malnutrition and other problems.

When disasters occur, the Foreign Mission Board ascertains from the missionaries on the fields something of the circumstances they face and what they believe can be done to minister.

Based on recommendations from the missions (organizations of Southern Baptist missionaries) funds are appropriated and relief steps are taken. The missionaries have demonstrated great love for people in distress and become the focal persons in times of disaster to help take care of emergency needs. Often, teams of people go there to give assistance. These auxiliary steps are greatly appreciated.

Individual Baptists and churches give relief funds throughout the year. Funds sent to the Foreign Mission Board, designated for relief, are used for that purpose. When disaster strikes, giving for relief, in response to emergencies at hand, nearly always increases.

In addition, it is often necessary to appropriate funds for relief from the regular mission funds upon which the Foreign Mission Board relies to carry on its main responsibility of mission work in 81 countries. When the Foreign Mission Board received advance funds from the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program at the close of the convention's fiscal year on September 30, it became possible to appropriate \$100,000 of those funds for relief. As specific recommendations are received, those funds will be appropriated for those special steps.

The Foreign Mission Board stands ready to receive and disburse all relief funds contributed by Southern Baptists in response to human need. The disbursement of those funds is based upon recommendations from the mission field so that we are able to utilize those funds to their maximum advantage.

The challenge of relief will be long range. This is not something that we will deal with for a few months and then see it go away. The final quarter of this century stands before us with awesome possibilities of human needs beyond what we have known before.

In the current study of bold plans for the future, it is appropriate to re-examine all that is being done in the ministry of relief, and to design even more effective steps for the years ahead.

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Note to Editors: Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, delivered the above comments and suggestions in his report to the board during its November meeting in Richmond, Va.

Rutledge Receives
Alaska-Sized Turnip

11/8/74

ATLANTA (BP)--Arthur Rutledge, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board chief executive, is a Texan who naturally is hard to impress.

But he shook his head in disbelief here when he received a gift from Darby Moore, Miss Alaska.

Miss Moore, daughter of missionary pastor Roy Moore of Redoubt Baptist Church, Kenai Alaska, sent Rutledge a 16 1/2 pound turnip. John Allen of the board's church extension department presented it at the agency's November meeting here.

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**Home Mission Board Votes
Church Loan "Slowdown"**

ATLANTA (BP)--A 60-day slowdown on receiving new loan requests for church construction was approved by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board at its directors November meeting here.

The directors approved the slowdown to allow time for processing of some 100 preliminary requests for loans, totaling about \$7 million, already received by the division of church loans.

More than 100 loans for some \$8 million already have been made in 1974, according to Robert H. Kilgore, director of the division.

Tight money and soaring interest rates have doubled the number of loan inquiries received by Kilgore's office. Last month the board's directors approved a raise in the interest charged on church loans to 9 per cent and authorized the borrowing of \$2 million to augment the loan fund.

Directors accepted the resignation of one staff member and approved the appointments of eight missionaries and 13 missionary associates.

Jack Stanton, director of the department of mass evangelism ministries in the division of evangelism, resigned, effective Dec. 31, 1974, to become director of the Institute of Evangelism and professor of evangelism in the Redford School of Theology at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.

Stanton has been associated with the division of evangelism since 1960 and before that was secretary of evangelism for the Kansas and Colorado state Baptist conventions.

Home Mission Board Executive Director Arthur B. Rutledge reported to the directors the 1974 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering now totals \$7,932,000, or 16.7 per cent more than 1973's total. The offering possibly will exceed \$8 million for the year when all the receipts are in, he said. One state has not sent in its offering to date.

The board dealt with two property matters. It sold a parcel--one-sixteenth of a 164.92 acre tract--received from the estate of B.D. Gray, son of a former board chief executive, and purchased a building and lot on the corner of the block now occupied by the board building.

The City of Atlanta purchased the Gray property on Jonesboro Road for \$990,000 less realty and other fees. The Home Mission Board's share will be one-sixteenth of the proceeds of the sale.

The building and parking area acquired were purchased for \$175,000. The building has been used for two years by the board's department of art services and for storage. Rental of the building, which contains 7,500 square feet, and the parking area has been costing \$15,000 annually.

Russell H. Dilday, pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta and president of the directors, emphasized the board is not in the real estate business, that the building was on "contiguous property" and was being purchased at an estimated 15 per cent below the market value.

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Board Appoints 21 Home
Mission Personnel

11/8/74

ATLANTA (BP)--Eight missionaries and 13 missionary associates were appointed at the November meeting of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for service in eight states.

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Missionaries appointed were David and Effie Mae Flick of Canton, Okla., as pastor of an Indian church; John and Virginia Pate of Evansville, Ind., as director of missions for Northwest Indiana; Dean and Lois Preuett of Syracuse, N.Y., as pastor-director of Christian social ministries in Syracuse; and Norman and Patty Wallace of O'Fallon, Ill., as director of missions in Western Association, Md.

Appointed missionary associates were Pedro and Eunice Cervantes of Belton, Tex., as pastor of First Mexican Baptist Church in Belton; Phyllis Kimbrough of Corvallis, Ore., as missionary at the Albuquerque Baptist Center; Manuel and Irma Helen Macias of San Antonio, Tex., student ministry.

Also, Floyd and Betty Merrill of Airway Heights, Washington, as a church starter for the department of church extension in Portland, Ore.; Ralph and Norma Molins of Kress, Tex., as pastor of Mission Bautista El Calvario in Kress; Kenneth and Alice Norton of Fruitland, N. Mex., as part-time student missionary; Mary Lou Sanchez of Mission, Tex., as a kindergarten teacher at Primera Iglesia Bautista in Mission; and Eugene Swindle of New Orleans as a student intern at Friendship House in New Orleans.

In many instances, Home Mission Board appointments are joint appointments with state conventions and in some cases the appointees are already at work.

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Baptist Work in S. America
Adjusts to Changing Needs

11/8/74

RICHMOND (BP)--Growth and changing circumstances of Southern Baptist witness in South America are dramatic, but change just for the sake of change doesn't necessarily produce progress, according to Frank K. Means, Foreign Mission Board secretary for South America.

On Jan. 1, 1975, South America will be divided into two administrative areas. Means will be secretary for Eastern South America. W. O. Vaught, president of the Foreign Mission Board, has appointed a committee for Western South America, to oversee work in that area and to recommend a new secretary.

At the Foreign Mission Board's November meeting, Means shared some concerns relating to work in the continent.

The need for more missionaries was at the top of his list. The board recently received requests for 250 new missionaries to join the 11 missions (organizations of SBC missionaries) in South America. Seventy per cent of the new requests are for preachers.

"Evangelism and church development must be maintained as our central thrust," Means said, but "social service ministries must be encouraged as expressions and examples of Christian compassion in action. Can anyone imagine Christ hesitating to heal just because it might not contribute directly to evangelism or church development?"

Means cited the increasingly more important role of the indigenous national Baptist. National leaders, he said, are growing in number and competence, and state and national conventions have larger roles than ever before. He agreed with a committee report that warned against top heavy, too elaborate and too expensive denominational structures.

"Constant care should be exercised to see that conventions are the servants of the churches rather than the churches being subservient to the conventions," he said.

Stewardship obligations are also a concern. "Some progress, but not enough, is being made toward self-support for churches and denominational support for institutions and programs," Means said. The financial goal is to make programs less dependent on subsidies and to discover both foreign and national sources for supplemental funds for new projects and greater outreach.

"The growing importance of lay leadership training, by whatever method, cannot be overlooked or neglected," Means said. "This is too large a task to be done effectively by

a theological seminary or institute." He also said needs exist for more adequate formal ministerial training in a situation where students are exposed to the lives and examples of great teachers.

The use of the mass media is also a concern. "More creative ways of distributing and using the mass media materials we already have must be discovered," he said. "More and better mass media materials must be developed."

He said South America is fortunate to have access to materials produced at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Tex., and Portuguese material published by the Board of Religious Education and Publications in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Missionary Alan W. Compton, based in Mexico City, coordinates radio-TV work for Latin America.

Means concluded that strategy planning is needed to establish priorities and to determine how to best utilize the available resources of personnel and funds. "Strategy planning, without taking God into account, is an exercise in futility. With God, it can be a thrilling experience," he said.

"Methods, procedures and organizational forms are being called into question by changing times. New ways must be found to do old and new things. But change, just for the sake of change, may not produce progress."