



# FEATURES

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 75-26

Bangladesh--Needs Overwhelm;  
 Spiritual Ministry Continues

By Ruth Fowler

DACCA, Bangladesh (BP)--Physical needs here are overwhelming, but missionaries haven't lost sight of the need to feed souls for Jesus Christ, as well as feed the hungry, clothe the naked and give shelter to those living on the streets.

What does one do when he or she sees people starving to death daily and is unable to feed them all? When he sees them sleeping in the streets without even enough rags to cover their bodies?

Southern Baptist missionaries have been digging tube wells to relieve the contaminated water problem and the resulting cholera.

They have been providing fish and ducks, not only so the people can eat now, but to reproduce so they can eat for many tomorrows.

The missionaries have been taking the homeless to camps where they can be given blankets and shelter. They have been giving farmers new rice seedlings so the latter can have a crop next season.

But inspite of their response to physical needs, the missionaries participate daily in many kinds of personal witnessing, plus larger planned efforts, such as a church growth conference in Dacca, Bible Way correspondence courses, a love feast in Feni and special relief efforts in Comilla.

D. R. (Danny) Hill saw hope in the people's eyes at the church growth conference held recently in Dacca. The first of its kind in the history of Dacca Baptists, the conference spotlighted different areas of growth.

An entire village, of about 400 families, was asking for Christian instruction, not relief. The village, already ostracized by Muslim priests for its Christian interests, wanted someone to come and talk to them about Jesus. A national Christian will go to them.

A young medical student, a recent convert to Christianity, shared how in the last two months eight of his muslim schoolmates had accepted Christ, and they were thinking of forming a "house church" for worship, prayer and fellowship.

Statistics were heard telling of "marvelous growth among certain groups in India and Bangladesh," Hill said. "This conference allowed all present to see that indeed God has been at work here for a long time."

The Bible Way correspondence school recently held a camp, during which 10 young men made professions of faith.

In Feni, the victory came in the form of a Christmas love feast. The number attending was triple that of last year, a total of 84 came. There is no church in Feni and none in the Noakhali district where Feni is located. This dinner might be remembered as a beginning, according to missionary Mrs. James E. Young.

"Noakhali was notorious for its lodging of crooks," Mrs. Young said. "We, like other people who live here, rarely tell another that we're from Feni without getting some comment or look of amazement."

Now Feni has a growing Christian Fellowship and the Lord is, according to Mrs. Young, transplanting his people into the area. "We are waiting with sheer joy to see what he is going to do next."

In Comilla, missionary R.T. Buckley is among Rotarians helping in relief work. He is also aiding the Salvation Army in building houses. The real chance to witness, Buckley says, comes not in talking to the people you are helping, but in talking to those with whom you are working. Building houses affords Buckley a still longer association with the people around him.

One fellow worker watched the Buckleys take into their home a near-dead baby and said, "You people are different." In the midst of the famine, the death, the sickness, missionaries continue to find ways to witness to the needs of the soul, leading people to Jesus.

"Pray that we will always have the correct balance," Hill said. "Oh, God, The need is so great, but help us never to lose sight of the need of the soul for the cleansing of the blood of Jesus Christ!"

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**Agencies Respond to  
Committee of Fifteen**

**NASHVILLE (BP)**--Actions prompted by an organizational evaluation of the Southern Baptist Convention were described here by administrators of the denomination's agencies.

More efficient and effective use of the denomination's resources was reported to be in progress as a result of 22 recommendations and 97 "concerns" expressed by the Committee of Fifteen a year ago.

The committee study, released in February, 1974, was the first major structure study of the 12.5 million-member body since 1958.

Baker James Cauthen told the SBC Executive Committee that the Foreign Mission Board was implementing "bold new plans" for expanding and strengthening Southern Baptist work overseas during the next 25 years.

Cauthen announced that the board now has under appointment 2,600 missionaries in 83 countries.

A committee is working on detailed plans for a significant Southern Baptist missions challenge effort, he said. One part of the effort is a consultation on foreign missions involving about 300 people at Miami, June 4-8.

The SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, submitted a lengthy written report to the denomination's Executive Committee outlining detailed plans for long range planning, reduction of overlapping work with other SBC agencies, expansion of its evangelism efforts across the United States, bringing its lay renewal efforts into sharper focus and intensifying its work in establishing new churches and missions.

Grady C. Cothen, newly installed president of the Sunday School Board, reported progress in the board's efforts to increase the amount of mission education material in the board's publications and to provide for greater flexibility in the retirement plans for board personnel.

He stated that action was under way to re-examine and update the board's numerous task statements and to improve coordination among the various church program organizations.

Cothen also announced that a committee of the board's trustees had been appointed to consider changing the name of the agency. The Sunday School Board is the denomination's publishing house and provides leadership in the educational programs of local churches.

Paul M. Stevens, head of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, speaking to the 64 members of the Executive Committee, emphasized the commission's role as a major public relations effort by the denomination and as an enabling agency providing special assistance to other Baptist agencies and organizations.

Stevens also indicated that within the limitations required by radio and television stations for public affairs programming the commission is moving to more direct and explicit Christian witness.

Darold Morgan, president of the SBC Annuity Board, Dallas, reported that staff studies are under way on seven areas of concern expressed by the Committee of Fifteen.

Morgan also told the SBC Executive Committee that retirement plans and services of the board have all of the safeguards required by recent federal legislation and exceed minimum standards set by law.

The six Baptist theological seminaries operated by the Southern Baptist Convention reported their separate responses to some areas of concern listed by the Committee of Fifteen, mostly indicating that these problem areas have been the focus of trustee and staff attention for several years.

The response of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., was critical of the SBC Executive Committee for providing an inadequate framework for long range planning by the SBC agencies.

The Executive Committee authorized a study requested by the Home Mission Board for the development of a model for long range planning which can be utilized by all of the SBC agencies.

Other agencies have previously responded to the Committee of Fifteen report. Additional responses are expected later this year.

# # #

Executive Committee Sets  
Budget, Disaster Response

Baptist Press  
2/19/75

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee set a \$41 million, 1975-76 Cooperative Program basic operating budget--and an overall national Cooperative Program goal of \$51 million--and took steps to strengthen SBC response to worldwide hunger and disaster.

The committee, comprised of laypersons and pastors from across the SBC, also approved up to \$1,664 to help fund a survey on a proposed name change for the SBC and approved a proposal to allow the denomination's Sunday School Board to borrow up to \$1.8 million to acquire land and build Baptist Book Stores in eight cities.

Additionally, the Sunday School Board was asked to provide staff leadership and assistance to give aid to ministers and church staffers with counseling needs. The action followed a request, approved at the 1971 SBC annual sessions in St. Louis, to look into the matter.

The Executive Committee also authorized its staff to circulate proposed changes in the SBC Home Mission Board's evangelism structure, which will be considered by the board's directors in March and brought to the Executive Committee at its June 9 meeting prior to the 1974 annual session in Miami Beach. The proposed changes will not be announced until the board's action in March.

Last year's convention, meeting in Dallas, asked the Home Mission Board to study the status and structure of its evangelism division.

The action on disaster reaffirmed program statements of four SBC agencies, which call for response to emergency needs, and also established a committee of eight persons as an advisory committee "to aid the appropriate agencies in alerting Southern Baptists immediately through the Baptist Press, on the basis of carefully worked out criteria, when a disaster calls for special consideration of the Southern Baptist church members."

The committee will consist of the chairmen of the SBC Home and Foreign Mission Boards, the SBC Stewardship and Brotherhood Commissions and the Executive Committee, plus the president of Southern Baptist Convention and the presidents of the Southern Baptist Press Association and state executive secretaries group.

The 1975-76 budget proposals include \$41 million basic operating budget, plus \$1 million for capital needs. An additional \$9 million, set as a "challenge" goal for a total \$51 million, will be distributed to SBC agencies on the same proportion as the basic budget.

Chauncey R. Daley, editor of Kentucky's Western Recorder and chairman of a seven-person committee named by last year's convention, reported the committee has conducted extensive research around the SBC in studying a name change and the structure of the Executive Committee.

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Part of that research, he said, should include a professional opinion survey on the proposal for an SBC name change conducted by the Sunday School Board's research services department.

He said the board has agreed to provide \$2,080 of the total cost of \$3,744 and asked the Executive Committee to approve the additional \$1,664 expenditure. The committee agreed.

The eight Baptist Book Stores, for which the committee allowed the Sunday School Board to borrow money, will be in Shreveport, La., Dallas, Tex., Greensboro, N. C., Atlanta, Ga., Lubbock, Tex., Knoxville, Tenn., and San Antonio, Tex.

In other action, the Executive Committee approved revisions of its employee manual to conform to laws on equal opportunity for women. Copies of the manual will be provided to SBC agencies for their information.

Other actions included a decision by the Executive Committee that the Southern Baptist Foundation is "fully empowered by its program statement to inform membership of the Southern Baptist Convention of its services . . . and that the foundation should do all it can to implement its program statement, also keeping in mind the needs of the state foundations."

The matter arose when a recommendation from the Committee of 15 called for a study of relationships of the Southern Baptist Foundation and the state Baptist foundations. Some state foundation executives raised the issue of the SBC Foundation's right to advertise its services in state conventions.

Dealing with a protracted discussion between the SBC Christian Life Commission in Nashville and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington about overlap of functions, the committee said:

"The Christian Life Commission (should) work through the Public Affairs Committee in every way possible in matters of government contact in Washington . . . The Public Affairs Committee (should) recognize the responsibility for approach to churches in the areas of public affairs in morality and ethics should be the responsibility of the Christian Life Commission, except in cases of specific matters of religious liberty and separation of church and state."

Continuing, the committee said it felt "it is to the best interest of the Southern Baptist Convention . . . to have only one office in Washington to directly deal with the government and that all agencies in the convention should use the skills and resources of that office in everyway possible.

"The Public Affairs Committee should utilize the Christian Life Commission in every way possible in sharing information it might obtain in government sources in areas specifically assigned to the Christian Life Commission," the committee continued.

The Executive Committee asked its staff to work with the Public Affairs Committee and the Christian Life Commission to make program statement changes to implement these changes for recommendation to the Executive Committee.

By a split vote, the Executive Committee referred back for further study a dispute over whether funds from an estate, known as the Sheppard estate, are being used as the donor intended. Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, contended the income of a trust with the Southern Baptist Foundation from the Sheppard estate was meant for Southern Seminary.

The Executive Committee's program subcommittee had decided, before the larger committee referred it back, that the current use of the funds by the SBC Education Commission to provide scholarships for teachers meets legal requirements of the will.

The letter of petition accuses Harold E. Lindsey, president since 1970, of being "arrogant, dictatorial, self-serving, unChristian . . ." It asks him to resign "as quickly and as quietly as possible," according to a report by South Carolina's Baptist Courier.

A financial campaign for \$4 million was nearing the half-way point when the controversy developed. Ryan Eklund, vice president for development, quickly resigned, saying the school cannot raise money in the midst of controversy.

Two principle grievances center around a stepped up teaching load and a charge that the president has bought land from the college at less than market value.

Lindsey increased the standard instructional schedule last fall from 15 to 18 semester hours. The professors objected to the increase and to "the high handed and dictatorial manner in which he did it without consulting us."

Records in the Greenville County Court House show that Lindsey has purchased 60 acres, plus five developed building lots from the college since 1971. Some purchases were slightly above assessed value and some were below this figure.

"He purchased 10 acres in 1971 for \$10,125. It was assessed at \$10,000," the Baptist Courier reported. "In 1974 he purchased 50 acres for \$10,000. The county books do not yet show the assessed value. Residents of the area estimate the value at \$1,000 to \$1,500 per acre. He paid \$2,800 for the five lots. Their assessed value is \$8,000."

Lindsey said the land transactions were handled by the executive committee of the board of trustees and that "nothing was wrong." "But I am returning the land in question to quiet my critics."

The petition was a letter addressed to Lindsey, with copies mailed to all members of the board of trustees. It was signed by 16 of the 22 regular faculty members and one of four part-time instructors. Administrative aides and the basketball coach were not invited to sign.

The trustee executive committee responded immediately by meeting on the campus for individual interviews with all faculty members, both signers and non-signers.

Lindsey followed this with a faculty meeting in which he proposed to return the land deeds, give salary raises, return to the 15 semester hours teaching schedule and name a faculty committee to communicate with the trustees' academic committee.

Religion professor Billy J. Walsh, the faculty's unofficial spokesman, replied: "Dr. Lindsey, we are now past overtures. We demand your resignation." He added that he had "no confidence in anything you say."

The student body divided over the issue, a majority wearing lapel ribbons to show their support of the faculty.

North Greenville was established as an academy in 1893 and became a junior college around 1930. It is one of four colleges (two junior and two senior colleges) supported by South Carolina Baptists.

Lindsey, then an associate in the evangelism department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, became president in 1970. He is a native of Greenville. His administration has doubled the student enrollment and erected two new buildings and renovated several other campus buildings.

The 25-member board of trustees called a meeting to seek a solution to the faculty-president impasse.

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He Didn't 'Have A Prayer'  
But That's What Saved Him

By Bob Mathews

Baptist Press  
2/19/75

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Don D. Lowrey, a 24-year-old Sunday School teacher at Cherokee Hills Baptist Church here, believes in answered prayer.

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He says he felt its effect during a horrifying 48 hours in which he narrowly escaped death at the hands of three kidnapers, who beat him, shot him and left him for dead.

It sustained him when captors forced his head down into an old abandoned toilet and sent a bullet thudding into the back of his head. Instead of penetrating the skull, the bullet traveled under his scalp on the outside of his skull over the top of his head.

And prayer, and the events surrounding the episode, had a life-changing effect on his brother, Ron.

Lowrey's experience began on a fog shrouded Wednesday morning, Feb. 12, as he sat in his car reading a newspaper and awaiting time to go to work as an apprentice electrician.

A man tapped on his window and asked if Lowrey could help him change a flat. Lowrey offered the man a ride to his car, but, when he entered the car, he jammed a pistol to Lowrey's head. Two more men appeared out of the fog and the trio forced the young man into the trunk of his car hitting him in the head as he leaned over.

Although he was missed by his work crew, Lowrey was not heard from again until his blue Buick was found abandoned in north east Oklahoma City by the three gunmen, who used it to flee from the robbery of the Park State Bank in a suburban Nicoma Park. The motor was running and the doors and the trunk lid were open when police found it.

What happened to Lowrey in the six hours between his abduction and the bank robbery is not all clear, because the victim is suffering from three skull fractures, a broken jaw, and a broken nose. It is known that the bank robbers, in an apparent attempt to "frame" him, dropped records of Lowrey's purchase of the Buick in the bank floor and left behind a sawed off shot gun with his finger prints on it. And one of the bandits wore an athletic letter jacket belonging to the kidnap victim.

When Lowrey's wife, Becky, an employee of the Council Road Baptist Church Day Care Center, was notified of his disappearance, fellow church members started prayer chains. Much of the Wednesday prayer service at Cherokee Hills Church was devoted to praying for the safety of the young man. During the two days of waiting and praying, people from around the country called to assure Becky of their prayers.

In the meantime Lowrey's older brother, Ron, arrived and issued appeals on radio and television for the kidnapers, identified as three black men, or anyone knowing of Lowrey's location to call the family. A reward of \$2,000 was posted for information of his location and condition.

On Friday afternoon, the Oklahoma County sheriff's office received a call saying, "That man might be found on the north side of Nicoma Park."

Sheriff's deputies rushed to the area and were met by a black man, who said he had spotted someone moving his leg in the window of an abandoned house. It was Lowrey. Prayers of thanksgiving were said throughout the city as radio stations broadcast the good news that he had been found and was alive.

Piecing together the story, police learned that after he was put in the trunk of his car, Lowrey was taken to northeast Oklahoma City and beaten again. His jacket was removed, and he was dragged by the feet about a quarter of a mile through the underbrush. His back was severely cut by the brush.

Lowrey remembers being put into a small room and hit in the head before he felt a severe blow--the bullet--on the back of the head. The small room was an old outdoor toilet, where his captors placed him for his execution. The trio left thinking he was dead, not knowing that the bullet failed to penetrate the skull.

He somehow dragged himself to the abandoned house about 40 feet away and lay down on an old couch in the front room near a window.

During his 48 hour disappearance Lowrey regained consciousness a few times and tried to leave the house but fainted each time. He suffered from the near freezing temperatures without a coat and lost a lot of blood, but he was to live to send word to the Cherokee Hills congregation the following Sunday that he could also feel the prayers of fellow Christians.

He is hospitalized awaiting plastic surgery and is under 24 hour police guard since the trio of bank robbers has not been caught, but that's not the end of the story.

Sunday night, his brother Ron, who had served as the family spokesman during the ordeal, was in the services at Cherokee Hills church. During the invitation he made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and asked to be baptized.

Ron explained that two weeks ago he had become concerned about his spiritual condition, although he had been baptized as a youth. He asked God for a sign.

"I've had my sign," Ron Lowrey told the church. "When God brought Don back alive, I knew what I had to do."

Both brothers now say that instead of hating the abductors and wanting to kill them, they are praying for them.

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#### CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story, today's mailing, entitled "Executive Committee Sets Budget Disaster Response," insert "Raleigh, North Carolina," in line 3 of paragraph 3 on page 4.

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