



BAPTIST PRESS

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February 21, 1975

75-28

Bangladesh Missionaries Call For Additional Relief Funds

RICHMOND (BP)--W. Eugene Grubbs, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's disaster response coordinator, said in an interview here that the agency's missionaries in impoverished Bangladesh can handle all financial resources that Southern Baptists can provide for relief and rehabilitation needs there.

Qualifying his statement, Grubbs, who recently returned from Bangladesh where he surveyed needs, explained, "Our missionaries in Bangladesh can skillfully utilize all the resources that Southern Baptists will place in their hands if they are permitted to choose projects consistent with their primary purpose for being there and which are based on their own intimate firsthand knowledge, insights obtained from other relief groups and counsel from Bangladesh government officials.

"I don't put any limit on it if they're permitted to do it that way," he said.

Before his departure to Bangladesh, Grubbs visited the U. S. State Department where he was briefed on U. S. relief efforts and discussed suggestions and procedure for future Baptist efforts.

Arriving in the country, he talked to every missionary and several government officials including the district officer (equivalent to governor) of a province of six million people near Comilla, a sub-district officer in Feni and a joint secretary of relief for the Bangladesh government.

"We found that the State Department's suggestions, the missionaries' suggestions and the Bangladesh government officials' suggestions all supported each other in approaches to relief," Grubbs said.

Noting the overwhelming task facing seven Southern Baptist missionary families as they attempt to minister to a population in Bangladesh of 80 million, Grubbs told of some projects the missionaries were already involved in and others that might be undertaken in the future.

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Buckley, missionaries stationed in Comilla, envision a "rural village relief, rehabilitation and development project" which would cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year. Buckley has selected a village of both Hindus and Muslims in which to begin.

A "food for work" program would provide food and a small stipend in exchange for labor. Bengali men would dig and clean out small tanks (ponds) for irrigation purposes, for fish production and for raising ducks. They would also learn to raise ducks, farm fish and grow some food for cattle. Health, hygiene, sanitation and family planning also could be taught.

Buckley has been helping the Salvation Army build houses. Grubbs indicated that Buckley is willing to do this for Southern Baptists, but that whole villages of about 50 houses would need to be reconstructed. These small one-room shelters which cost \$200 in 1971, now cost \$800 to build. A village would cost \$40,000, and Buckley will supervise the building of as many villages as funds will provide, according to Grubbs.

The Carl F. Rythers, missionaries in Feni, are also involved in a "food for work" program. Ryther, an agriculturalist, says one deep irrigation well will irrigate 50 acres of land.

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A typical Bengali landowner owns about one acre. Therefore, each irrigation well helps 50 landowners. In addition, five laborers are needed if the land is cultivated as intensively as suggested by Ryther. Four crops a year can be harvested.

Grubbs said cultivation of a 50 acre plot would cost \$62,000 a year. Thus, for that total sum, assistance is provided for from 1,500 to 1,800 people. That is six laborers per acre, multiplied by 50 acres, totaling 300 families helped. Bengali families average over five persons. Grubbs said Ryther could handle up to five of these 50 acre plots if resources were available.

The James E. Youngs, missionaries also stationed in Feni, are prepared to help rebuild villages and institute a community development program. This is consistent with the Feni sub-district officer's suggestion for a model village project. The cost would include \$800 for each house and an additional \$10,000 a year for other phases such as providing each village with about 10 sewing machines at \$100 each. The Youngs would also help sink tube wells, teach health, hygiene, sanitation and family planning, and help in handicraft projects.

The Thomas E. Thurmans and the Thomas D. Kirkpatrick, missionaries in Faridpur, have been involved in a grain distribution program which could be converted to a "food for work" project. This would cost \$18,000 a year. The missionaries would also like to continue providing scholarships for needy children who have had to drop out of school. This would cost \$6,000 a year.

Grubbs commended the wisdom of all the Bangladesh missionaries in concentrating efforts in rural areas. Two missionaries are stationed in Dacca, a city of one million people. More assistance is available in Dacca than in rural areas. Grubbs suggested that financial resources could be channeled through relief agencies already at work in Dacca.

Grubbs suggested some major guidelines for Southern Baptist assistance. It is best not to attempt to import large quantities of grain or other foods, he said, because grain can be purchased locally.

"Imports can be handled on a government level," Grubbs explained. "The joint secretary for the Bangladesh ministry of relief said they will sell us grain at international market prices. He would use the money to purchase replacement grain from the world market."

Another suggestion is to avoid spreading relief efforts over large areas or "broadcasting" them. Otherwise, it would exhaust resources and leave the people hungry again in a few days.

Grubbs suggested selecting a certain area, determining what resources are needed and using the resources so that genuine assistance is provided and people are helped over a long period of time.

Finally, he indicated giveaway projects should be avoided. Food and clothing can be supplied where available, he said, but make it an exchange program for work.

"This will help those who previously have not been beggars from becoming beggars and will discourage the professional beggar from continuing," Grubbs said.

There will be a need for a few volunteer laymen from the United States to assist in several ways, Grubbs noted. A retired bookkeeper will be needed to keep account of all the Southern Baptist funds that are sent to Bangladesh. Several rice farmers could help in the agricultural areas.

Grubbs also mentioned a village medical assistance project that could be conducted in Faridpur. A medical team each month from the United States could see about 1,000 people daily in villages around Faridpur.

Even though the missionaries are ready to intensify relief and rehabilitation efforts, Grubbs emphasized that they could also continue to respond to evangelistic efforts.

"We've got to remember that they are facing the greatest evangelistic opportunities they've ever had," Grubbs stated. "They can't turn entirely to relief work," he said, "although they recognize that as Christians, they can't ignore the physical suffering that surrounds them."

Story by Charlie Warren.

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(BP) Photos to be mailed to Baptist State editors

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Teaff Named to Coach West
In Annual All-Star Contest

Baptist Press
2/21/75

WACO, Tex.. (BP)--Grant Teaff, head coach for the Baylor Bears Football team here has been named as head coach for the West in the annual Coaches All-America game, June 21, in Lubbock, Tex.

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Teaff was both the Southwest Conference (SWC) and national coach of the year, the latter from the American Football Coaches Association which also named him for the All-America Game post.

The Baylor coach led his team from a 2-9 season in 1973 to the SWC championship and their first chance to represent the conference in the Cotton Bowl on January 1. The Bears last won the SWC championship 50 years ago.

Named to coach the East squad for the All-America game was Steve Sloan, head football coach at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and former head coach at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, the Associated Press reported.

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Acteens Conference Grows
Bigger Meeting Hall

Baptist Press
2/21/75

The National Acteens Conference (NAC) scheduled for Memphis, June 25-29, has been moved to a larger meeting hall because of overflow registration.

More than 5,000 persons have registered for the conference since registration opened Jan. 1, 75. Revised plans call for NAC to be held in Cook Convention Center in Memphis, with seating for 8,000.

"We had already registered more people than we could seat," explained Carolyn Weatherford, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

WMU sponsors Acteens, the Southern Baptist mission organization for girls in grades 7-12.

Miss Weatherford predicted that registration will soon outgrow the new meeting place. She urged persons not to register at the last minute, and plan to attend NAC. "When seating is filled we will have to close registration," she said. Theme for the meeting will be "In Touch," helping to alert Acteens to needs and issues in world missions.

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W. Va. Baptists Name Woman
To Head WMU, Campus Work

Baptist Press
2/21/75

ST. ALBANS, W. Va. (BP)--Miss Delores Palmer has been elected as Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) director and campus ministries director for the four-year-old West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

Currently director of inner cities missions for the Pioneer Baptist Association in the Charleston, W. Va., area. She is a former school teacher in Florida and Ohio and former youth director of Calvary Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga.

A native of Atlanta, Miss Palmer holds a bachelor of science degree from Tift College, Forsythe, Ga., and a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Miss Palmer's positions are assigned to the West Virginia Convention's missions division, directed by Floyd Tidsworth.

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Baptists' Story in Spain
Among Those Televised

Baptist Press
2/21/75

MADRID (BP)--Baptists were recognized in two interfaith Spanish television programs here.

Non-Catholic religious groups, including Baptists, were spotlighted in a recent 30-minute nationally televised special, according to European Baptist Press Service (EBPS).

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In another televised religious special, EBPS said, Juan Luis Rodrigo, the pastor of First Baptist Church, Madrid, took part in a 30-minute televised panel discussion, with representatives of other Christian denominations, to highlight observance of "The Week of Christian Unity" in Spain.

Baptists were represented in the program on non-Catholic groups by filmed parts of a service in Second Baptist Church of Madrid. As representative parts of a worship service for each religious group were presented, the founding date, number of churches and members in the country were flashed on the screen.

Among Baptists represented were a visiting youth choir and a hand-bell group from First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. Jose Cardona, pastor of Second Church was filmed baptizing two persons. Preaching was Jose Borrás, professor in the Baptist Seminary here and president of the Baptist Spanish Union.

Included also were the Episcopal Reform Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon), Muslims, Spanish and Gypsy Pentecostals.

Spanish journalist and Church of Christ Pastor Juan Antonio Monroy said during the "non-Catholics" special that "Spain now has more freedom than many other countries of Europe," EBPS noted.

The televised panel program in which Rodrigo participated also included representatives from the Episcopal Reform Church, the Spanish Evangelical Church and Spanish ecumenical movement and was moderated by Munoz Iglesias, Roman Catholic seminary professor of Madrid.

"We are grateful to God," said Rodrigo, "to give testimony of our work by means of television in prime viewing time," according to EBPS.

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Expand Pioneer Area Work
Say Student Directors

Baptist Press
2/21/75

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Greater support through resources and personnel of student work in so-called pioneer areas of Southern Baptists (SBC) were asked for in a statement by the Association of Southern Baptist Student Directors (ASBSD) meeting here in mid-February.

The organization of state student directors noted that where there is the greatest number of students in America, Southern Baptist student work is in the minority.

Named president of the organization was Jon Appleton, Alabama campus ministry director. The next meeting of the ASBSD is set for Denver, Colo., Feb. 8-11, 1976.

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