



BAPTIST PRESS

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**Entire Vietnamese Orphanage
Joins Children's Home Family**

DALLAS (BP)--Buckner Baptist Children's Home has added an entire Vietnam orphanage to its operation here.

The 69 orphans of Camranh City Christian Orphanage, their director, Nguyen Xuan Ha, along with 12 other staff members and their 13 children, arrived here June 12. They had spent the major part of their first month in America on the Paul Martin ranch near Houston.

"It was almost destined to happen," said Buckner Benevolences President R. C. Campbell. "We have the facilities, the professional staff, and we are in the business of caring for homeless children.

"We don't know what the future holds," Campbell continued, "but right now we're just going to give them lots of love and security, and the chance to be carefree children again."

The children, ranging in age from three to sixteen, are eligible for adoption, and Buckner is a licensed adoptive agency. Adoption plans will not be made for several months though, according to Campbell.

Meanwhile, Buckner is planning a cultural orientation program for the children, which will include language study and other schooling. This is in keeping with the wishes of Director Ha.

The arrival in Dallas marked the end of a journey covering thousands of miles-- from Camranh to Saigon, to Singapore, to Switzerland, New York, Ft. Chaffee in Arkansas and then to Houston.

It was a bone-weary, sometimes harrowing journey for the group. At times they were dangerously close to hostile forces.

The leaky diesel boat their director bought to get them from Rach Gia to Singapore had engine trouble after two days out on the water, and they were helplessly adrift.

Fortunately a Taiwanese merchant ship, bound for Hong Kong, towed them near the Singapore harbor, and two fishing boats rescued them and took them on into port.

But they lay in the harbor for five days, scared and hungry, before further help came.

It was in Singapore that Southern Baptist missionaries learned of their plight and helped get air passage to the United States via Switzerland.

Also in Singapore, Southern Baptist missionary, Ralph Neighbor, heard about the children and contacted his former pastorate, West Memorial Baptist Church in Houston, asking them to help in whatever way they could.

As a result, the Paul Martins, members of the West Memorial Church, offered their ranch for temporary care of the children. They were moved to the ranch after about a week in Ft. Chaffee.

Director Ha was concerned though about the future of his children. Sharing his concern was Southern Baptist missionary, James Gayle, who had served in Vietnam and was pastor to the City Christian Orphanage four years.

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Gayle, who grew up at Buckner Boys Ranch, turned to the officials there for help.

Campbell and Dallas child-care personnel responded. And one week after the decision was made to accept the children, they moved into their new home in Dallas.

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Airmen Give \$10,018
To Fight World Hunger

Baptist Press
6/19/75

ATLANTA, GA. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission has received a \$10,018 check from Air Force chaplains to be used in the fight against world hunger.

William L. Clark, director of the Chaplains Commission, a part of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said the funds would be forwarded onto the denomination's Foreign Mission Board for use in overseas hunger relief.

The \$10,018 was Southern Baptists' share of the annual Palm Sunday offering taken by Air Force chaplains in services around the world.

This year the offering was designated toward alleviation of world hunger and prorated to each religious group according to the number of chaplains it had serving on active duty.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.

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108 Refugees Baptized
In Chaffee Swimming Pool

Baptist Press
6/19/75

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. (BP)--More than 100 Vietnamese refugees were baptized in a swimming pool here on a recent Sunday night. The baptizing was done by Southern Baptist missionary Jim Gayle and Nguyen Anh Thai, a refugee Christian missionary Alliance pastor.

Gayle, who formerly served in South Vietnam and who now is attached to the Protestant chaplain's office at Ft. Chaffee, said between 300-400 refugees had made professions of faith in Jesus Christ and he and Thai baptized 108 of them on a single Sunday. Another baptismal service was planned for a couple of weeks later, he said.

Rules of the camp forbid any denominational affiliation for the new converts, Gayle said, but it is not hindering the refugees from requesting baptism. Each is given careful instruction in basic Christian doctrine before baptism, he emphasized.

Religious services are conducted every night and Sunday morning in the Protestant chapel. Prayer meetings are held each morning, and Gayle is teaching a Bible class each day from 9-10:30 a.m. He has enrolled about 300 in the class.

The missionary credited the professions of faith in Christ to the efforts of visitation teams organized among the Vietnamese Christians.

The teams visit any refugee who indicate they have a Protestant preference or who make an inquiry about Christianity, Gayle said.

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President Ford Proclaims
Day of Prayer, July 24

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Ford issued a proclamation here calling for a National Day of Prayer on Thursday, July 24, 200 years after the Second Continental Congress marked the first such observance.

Ford used the occasion to declare that "it is fitting to recall that it was a profound faith in God which inspired the founders of our nation . . . As we prepare to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of our nation, it is my fervent hope that Americans will not forget that it was prayer that helped to forge our freedoms and foster our liberties."

The President also stated that the liberties sought by the founding fathers have never been more secure than today, but added that "material progress and human achievement often beckon mankind away from the spiritual virtues."

Ford asked that during the day of prayer Americans pray "for unity and the blessings of freedom throughout our land and for peace on earth."