



BAPTIST PRESS

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Volcanic Eruption Certain; Baptists Assist Evacuees

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe (BP)--"We are going to have a volcanic eruption," Southern Baptist missionary Robert W. Shehand said here. "It's past the point of no return. It's going to erupt and it's going to be a big one."

The volcano, La Soufriere, is located on Basse Terre one of the twin islands which make up Guadeloupe, one of the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean. Monday, Aug. 16, government authorities started evacuating the 100,000 people believed to be in the danger zone around the volcano.

"Officials are expecting most of the buildings on Basse Terre to be destroyed," Shehand said in a telephone conversation with Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) headquarters in Richmond.

"A scientific team that gives reports periodically said that among the volcanos of the world, this is one of the most powerful. The explosion will have the equivalent of 30 million tons of TNT," Shehand noted. "They're also expecting dangerous gases and an ardent cloud which will burn the area around the volcano for five to 10 miles."

According to Shehand, the entire island of Basse Terre has been evacuated. Some of the people are relocating in temporary government camps. The Shehands are working with the Guadeloupe government helping where and how they can.

The immediate need is for 300 tents, 1,000 blankets and 500 cots, which W. L. (Wimpy) Smith, FMB assistant disaster coordinator and consultant for laymen overseas, is working to provide.

In July when more than 25,000 people evacuated the area around La Soufriere, Southern Baptists provided supplies for 250 families for a week. This, along with the latest action, was in conjunction with a program of action planned by the Baptists in May when the volcano's potential eruption was made known.

Of the six Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Guadeloupe, the Shehands are the only ones on the island now. The Wayne L. Fredericks are on vacation in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Alvin L. Garys are in the states on furlough.

"Tell the people we think we're out of the danger zone," Shehand said. "We're safe . . . and tell them something else, tell them to pray for us."

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Carter Book Sales
Reported Rapid

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8/16/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--Nearly 800,000 copies of former Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter's autobiography, "Why Not The Best?", are in print less than one year after release, making it the fastest selling book ever published by Broadman Press.

The Democratic presidential nominee's national political prominence has drawn attention to the book from some unexpected places, according to James W. Clark, director of the Broadman division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

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Foreign language printing rights already have been granted to four publishers, Clark reported. A Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, publisher is printing "Why Not the Best?" in Portuguese, and Eichosha Company, Ltd., of Tokyo is printing the book in Japanese. Most recently, a French publisher also was granted permission for reprinting the book, Clark added.

Both the newspaper serialization rights and book printing rights have been granted in German, Clark added, and negotiations should conclude soon for printing rights in Swedish. Initial contacts have been made with Spanish publishers, and a Chinese publisher in Taiwan has expressed interest in reprinting "Why Not the Best?"

Of the 800,000 copies of "Why Not the Best?" in print, Broadman Press has published a total of 250,000 in hardback and paperback. Broadman's first printing in September 1975, was 33,000 copies. Bantam Books, which purchased paperback publishing rights, has printed 550,000 copies.

Clark said that part of the book's popularity could be that Broadman's book is the only one written by Carter, a Southern Baptist deacon and trustee for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. All other books written about him are by observers and listeners on the presidential campaign trail, Clark noted.

The Broadman division director said he expects the book to continue selling at a "fairly rapid pace."

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Alaska 'Messengers'
Adopt Record Budget

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8/16/76

SITKA, Alaska (BP)--"Messengers" to the 31st annual session of the Alaska Baptist Convention met here in North America's first Russian capital as part of the Bicentennial celebration, where they adopted a record budget of \$590,000 and elected a new president.

The 1977 Alaska Convention budget is up \$76,672 over last year, with more than \$275,000 designated for missions and evangelism in Alaska. The convention will continue to give 29 percent or \$61,622, to world missions through the national Cooperative Program unified budget of Southern Baptists, according to Troy Prince, Alaska executive secretary.

Alvin Wood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, was elected president by 102 messengers of the 13,000 member convention, which met at First Baptist Church, Sitka, and on the campus of Sheldon Jackson College, a Presbyterian school.

Other new officers include Ferrell Mills and William Lyons, both of Anchorage, first and second vice presidents, respectively.

The Alaska Convention's total Cooperative Program goal is \$212,490 for 1977, a 22 percent increase over 1976, Prince said. And, he noted, Cooperative Program receipts for the first six months of 1976 exceeded the goal for that period by 4.82 percent.

Three new convention staff members were added in the past year, according to Prince. William Canary is the state music, student director and consultant in church administration. Harold Hime is directing Christian social ministries and heads the Alaska Baptist Family Service Center.

The convention's director of missions is John Allen, former associate director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church extension department.

In other action, the convention approved a \$105,621 budget for the Alaska Baptist Family Service Center and voted to meet Aug. 16-18, 1977, at the New Hope Baptist Church in Anchorage. The 1978 session is to be at First Baptist Church in Kenai, Alaska.

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Alabama Baptist Board
Sets \$13.3 Million Goal

Baptist Press
8/16/76

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--The adoption of \$13.3 million 1977 budget goal, the election of two new staff members, and the naming of a conference center after executive secretary George E. Bagley, were among actions taken by the executive board of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

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The budget is subject to final approval by the Alabama Baptist State Convention when it meets in annual session in Birmingham in November.

The major portion of the budget, \$9.3 million, is slated to go to the Cooperative Program unified budget for Alabama and nation-wide Southern Baptist causes. Of the total Cooperative Program goal, 35.5 percent is slated for denomination-wide causes, and 34.5 percent for Alabama Convention and "general denominational causes."

The board also voted a missions challenge goal of \$700,000, for a total Cooperative Program budget and challenge goal of \$10 million. The remainder of the 1977 budget goal is to be received through \$3.3 million in designated offerings for foreign missions, home missions and the Alabama Baptist Children's Home.

In other action, the board filled two vacancies in the board offices here. Billy McNutt, 42, has assumed duties as director of the church development division and will continue his previous responsibilities as director of the associational missions department, until a successor can be named.

Charles L. Martin, 53, pastor of Parker Memorial Baptist Church in Anniston, Ala., was elected director of the board's campus ministry department, effective Sept. 1.

The board voted to name a \$1.5 million conference center under construction at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly, Talladega, Ala., the "George E. Bagley Conference Center," in honor of the present Alabama Convention executive secretary.

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\$50,000 Annual Aid Program
For Southwestern Students

Baptist Press
8/16/76

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary students serving on small Baptist church staffs are expected to benefit from a new scholarship program in the amount of \$50,000 annually, it was announced here. The scholarship and aid program has been arranged by a Houston-based Foundation, which has asked to remain anonymous, a seminary spokesman said.

The program is designed to aid up to 250 Southwestern Seminary students for the coming year. In addition to demonstrating need, applicants must serve as pastor of a Baptist church with a membership of 300 or less. The scholarship is an amount equal to the seminary's matriculation fee.

Scholarship applicants also would be eligible to receive expense money for their travel to and from their church fields. The foundation has earmarked \$25,000 of the grant for that purpose, the spokesman noted.

According to Felix Gresham, Southwestern Seminary's dean of student affairs, "We should have little problem getting enough applicants, with nearly 1000 students being employed by churches in the five-state area." He explained that there are nearly 5,500 Southern Baptist churches within a 200-mile radius of the Fort Worth-based seminary.

Although the seminary will handle applications for the new scholarship, the foundation is expected to award the annual grants.

Students at Southern Baptist seminaries do not pay tuition. Income from the Cooperative Program (the basic unified giving program of Southern Baptists) endowment earnings, and grants provide tuition costs for every student accepted for admission.

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Social Work, Sailing
Funds to Two Schools

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Funds received by two Baptist universities will enable one to promote competitive sailing and the other to provide training for professionals working with helping agencies on children and family.

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A \$53,695 grant was awarded Furman University, Greenville, S. C., for its Child and Family Studies Institute by the Appalachian Regional Commission through the South Carolina Office of Child Development.

Louis Phillips, the school's director of continuing education, said the one-year grant will enable Furman to develop a model program of six short courses on the practical problems faced by professionals in the area of children and families. Several community agencies will work with Furman to develop the program.

A \$35,000 gift to Baylor University's sailing club enabled the purchase of four 420 sailing boats at the Waco, Tex.-based school. The money was given by John H. Ensey II, president of Brazos Concrete Products of Waco, on behalf of his late mother in honor of her late husband, Fred W. Ensey, according to a university release.

Mrs. Ensey in her will had noted that her late husband was a sailing enthusiast from his boyhood, spent in Talbot County, Chesapeake Bay, Md.

Bill Menefee, associate professor of physical education and director of the Baylor Marina, said the gift will enable Baylor to obtain equipment and participate in competitive sailing. The school now has five 420 boats, which are strictly for racing, Menefee said.

Although there is no official Southwest Conference provision for sailing, students in the conference still compete in the sport among the various universities.