



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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### Funds for Quake Victims, Hong Kong Evangelism Voted

RICHMOND (BP)-- Looking to both physical and spiritual needs, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted here to send \$25,000 to aid Baptist earthquake victims in Romania and also allocated \$25,000 for a major city evangelism effort now beginning in Hong Kong.

Since Romanian officials have indicated they have sufficient supplies of food and clothing at the present time, the board will make money available to the Romanian Baptist leaders instead of trying to send supplies, said J. D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia.

The money will be offered to the Baptist Union of Romania through John David Hopper of Austria, Southern Baptist fraternal representative to the Baptists of Eastern Europe. More funds may be made available if needed.

Reports indicate that at least two Baptist churches in Bucharest and Ploesti were demolished by the March 4 quake, Hughey said. Two students attending the Baptist seminary in Bucharest were reported killed as they were shopping in a supermarket which collapsed.

Southern Baptists have had no missionaries working in Romania since the start of World War II, but the denomination made major contributions to Romanian Baptist work in the pre-war years by starting the Bucharest Seminary and a girls' training school. World War II and the establishment afterward of a Communist government ended Southern Baptist participation in the work, and Romanian Baptists became one of the most isolated Baptist groups in Europe.

In recent years, Romanian Baptists have made good use of their limited freedom, reports indicate, and almost every Baptist congregation in the country has at least doubled its membership since World War II.

The \$25,000 voted for major city evangelization in Hong Kong is the initial appropriation for a 1977-78 penetration and saturation evangelism project. Planners of the campaign are hoping to start 2,000 home Bible study groups in all areas of the city of more than four million people.

The project is sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board's department of evangelism and church development and the Hong Kong Baptist Convention. Baptists in Hong Kong plan to raise \$100,000 for the two-year evangelism emphasis, with much of the money going for copies of scripture portions and mass media efforts.

First big event of the campaign is a Congress on Evangelism, scheduled March 20-27 at the Kowloon City Baptist Church. The Congress will provide information about the project and challenge pastors and lay leaders to participate.

A rally at the 15,000-seat Kowloon Football Stadium, March 27, will be the kickoff for the major city evangelization effort. S. M. Lockridge, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego, Calif., will speak.

The board also appropriated \$5,000 requested by the Argentine Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) to aid flood victims in the provinces of Santa Fe, Formosa and Chaco.

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Frank K. Means, the board's secretary for Eastern South America, said additional money may be needed if floodwaters continue to rise.

At the same meeting, held at the board's headquarters, a change was also approved in accounting procedures for handling of world relief and hunger funds. To facilitate reporting on the use of world hunger funds, the board voted to set up a separate world hunger account, effective April 1. All other relief funds will be handled in the regular relief account.

The board also heard a preliminary report on the 1976 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions which showed that through March 7 a total of \$21,496,715 had been received in Richmond.

This is an increase of more than \$1,137,000 over the \$20,358,878 received by the same date last year.

The 1976 goal is \$29 million, up \$5 million over the 1975 goal of \$24 million. The 1976 books on the offering will remain open until the end of April. Total receipts in the 1975 offering were \$26,169,421.

The board's executive director Baker J. Cauthen said the increase reported thus far reflects "the very excellent ingathering" which has taken place despite this winter's record cold weather.

The board also voted to receive bids April 13 on a new wing for its headquarters building in Richmond. A contract is expected to be awarded at the April 18-20 meeting in Atlanta.

The new addition, for which \$1,647,126 already has been appropriated, is scheduled to be completed by late summer 1978. Additional funds, if needed, will be allocated at the April meeting when the contract is awarded. Robert B. Bass of Virginia is building committee chairman.

Members of the board also approved a new three-year contract with Callaway Gardens to continue the use of the Georgia facility as the board's missionary orientation center. Between 160 and 170 missionaries a year receive orientation at the center annually in two 14-week orientation periods.

Beginning with the fall of 1977, the new contract provides that the board will pay Callaway Gardens rates that are 21.3 percent above those paid for the three previous years, but this increase is less than the 26.3 percent increase in the cost of living which has occurred during those three years.

The board named Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Corley as special project workers to Sanyati, Rhodesia, where they will both serve one year as medical technicians.

Noting that strife-torn Rhodesia is "not a place where you go without faith," Cauthen told the couple that "your going will strengthen the hands of those with whom you will work."

At Sanyati they will join some 25 other missionaries now serving in this area of South Central Africa.

William W. Marshall, secretary of the department of furlough ministries, reported to the board that 1,184 missionaries have taken part in furlough briefings since these conferences were started in 1973 in an effort to sharpen the focus of missionary furloughs. A total of 435 took part in four such briefings held last year as the board sought to bring its missionaries into more meaningful contact with supporting churches.

R. T. McCartney Elected in  
Texas, Scott Shifts Duties

DALLAS (BP)--Richard T. McCartney, an Oklahoma public relations counselor, was elected director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, a post he previously held.

Orville L. Scott, director of the department since 1972, asked to be relieved of administrative responsibilities to return to full-time writing as director of news and information for Texas Baptists.

Scott, chief of the Dallas Bureau of Baptist Press since 1972, has served Texas Baptists and the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina in various journalistic capacities since 1959. He was a press representative for Texas Baptists for six years before joining the children's homes staff as editor of Charity and Children in 1965, and returned to work for Texas Baptists in 1970.

McCartney, 49, was president of a public relations counseling firm, McCartney & Associates, Inc. He had been president of Arthur Davenport Associates, Inc., Oklahoma City, 1968-76, and directed public relations for Texas Baptists, 1962-68. He was also director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, 1958-62, pastor of Southern Baptist churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri, and served for 12 years in radio and television.

McCartney holds the bachelor of arts degree and an honorary doctor of humane letters from John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Ark., and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Active in many professional organizations, McCartney is chairman of the national grievance board for the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and is an accredited PRSA member. He is a former national president of the Baptist Public Relations Association (BPRA).

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to Baptist state papers.