



April 4, 1977

77-61

Baptists Help to Build  
Bridges of Hope in Bali

By Harry T. Bush Jr.

BALI, Indonesia (BP)--"The ground heaved up and attacked me.

"I could not run or even move because of the earth's shaking. I was terrorized by screams from my children and wife, but I was helpless."

It seemed like hours to Made Mileh of Wonogiri Village here, before the earth calmed down again, although it was really less than two minutes.

"Bricks fell, roof tiles crashed down, and large timbers barely missed the bed where my baby had been sleeping," he recalled.

Mileh was fortunate. He only lost possessions in the earthquake which hit the Indonesian isle of Bali on July 14, 1976. Over 600 people lost lives. Three thousand more were wounded. Those two minutes destroyed 85,000 houses. What did Baptists do in the face of such need?

First, Baptist missionaries in Indonesia sought the help of an interdenominational Balinese-born minister, Rus Alit. Then they requested \$10,000 from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's disaster relief fund. During their annual mission meeting (which was held a week after the earthquake), they gave \$400 more out of their own pockets as a special freewill offering.

The missionaries worked through Alit, who "kept on opening doors." He knew the customs, language and culture. As a Bali resident, he also knew where government monies were being applied.

Baptists went to the inner mountain villages. Work began through Alit's family and acquaintances. Soon goods and building supplies were offered to an 11-village district.

"If you give one sack of cement to any family, you have to give one to every family in the village, whether they suffered damage or not," a district commissioner told the missionaries.

"I know it's hard to understand, but it's a strong Balinese custom that has hampered all our relief operations," he added.

"There were 719 heads of families in his district, but only 419 had property losses. "Are there public sectors in which Baptists could assist without breaking this custom?" questioned Alit.

"Well, if we had some bridges, you could get a truck to any of our villages," hinted the commissioner: "Right now we have to carry stuff in by hand."

Alit immediately went to work. He supervised the making of huge galvanized wire baskets that enclosed tons of rock. He put cement pipe through them for water flow. Baptists provided materials for these bridges; each of the 11 villages provided labor.

"Helping them to help themselves--it really worked out great." Alit said. "It's the first time I've ever seen the local government back a Christian project," he continued. "And the good relationships Baptists and other Christians have gotten through it are fantastic."

Semipermanent houses were built. Reinforced steel structures were raised in several villages as examples of how to guard against damage in future quakes. Some rice was distributed to augment government relief efforts. This was done discreetly, to families impoverished by the disaster.

What did Baptists do? They ministered in the name of Christ. They met actual needs, answered a multitude of questions, provided bridges of hope to people in desperate situations and in general said, "I love you in the name of Christ."

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**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

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Senate Follows House;  
 Passes Ethics Code

77-61

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--After two and a half weeks of sometimes impassioned debate the U. S. Senate passed a code of conduct essentially unchanged from the version voted out of committee.

About 100 amendments were offered to the bill in the course of the debate but few of any substance were allowed to pass. The Senate leadership held the line against any weakening of the provisions of the so-called ethics bill despite strong challenges.

U. S. Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D.-Maine) offered perhaps the strongest challenge to the measure, when he fought bitterly against the limitation on outside earned income. The bill calls for a ceiling of 15 percent of income which may be earned by speaking or writing articles. No such limit was put on unearned income from dividends.

Muskie charged that this distinction between earned and unearned income was discriminatory and would push the Senate even farther in the direction of becoming solely "a rich man's club." Muskie has supplemented his income for many years on the lecture circuit.

U. S. Sen. Howard H. Baker (R.-Tenn.) offered an amendment on the final day of debate which would have ended the code of conduct in 1981. The backers of the bill rallied once again and insisted that the legislation have no predetermined end.

The bill which was finally enacted is similar to the code earlier adopted by the House of Representatives. It calls for full disclosure of income, sources of income, investments, and property holdings of members of the Senate, their spouses, and principal staff members.

U. S. Sen. Dick Clark (D.-Iowa) noted that the Senate version of the code of conduct has stricter enforcement provisions than that adopted by the House. "These provisions will ensure that the Senate will be held accountable for allegations of wrongdoing against its members, so that such allegations can no longer be buried in back rooms," Clark stated.

The ethics legislation was offered in response to public outcry over recent disclosures of wrongdoing in the Congress, such as the Wayne Hays-Elizabeth Ray scandal and alleged bribery of congressmen by representatives of South Korea, as well as the Watergate disaster.

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42 Baptist Families  
 Left Homeless By Fire

Baptist Press  
 4/4/77

OZAMIS CITY, Philippines (BP)--Forty-two Baptist families lost houses and possessions in an 11-hour fire here, March 31, which destroyed some 7,000 homes, left an estimated 35,000 persons homeless, and leveled a 21-block area of the city, according to William T. Roberson, Southern Baptist missionary press representative.

Ben Sakala, pastor of Ozamis City Baptist Church, said Baptists suffered no casualties and that no Baptist church buildings were in the affected area.

At this time, aid has not been requested from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

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Wakefield Encouraged By  
Malaysian Visa Extension

By Irma Duke

RICHMOND (BP)--Recent developments have produced "cautious optimism" for the possibility of future service by Southern Baptist missionaries in Malaysia.

Reports earlier this year indicated that all Southern Baptist missionaries would have to leave East Malaysia by mid-1977, but the Charles H. Morris family recently received permission to stay another year, according to William R. Wakefield, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Southeast Asia.

And in West Malaysia, two more Southern Baptist couples--Mr. and Mrs. Don Crane and Mr. and Mrs. Stockwell Sears--were granted visas to assist in training national Baptist leaders.

The one-year extension for the Morrises came after the East Malaysia Baptist Convention appealed the decision of the government of the State of Sarawak not to renew visas for Southern Baptist missionaries.

"On the basis of an appeal from the Baptist convention for their need of continued training for leaders, the government has graciously granted a year's extension to the Morris' visa," Wakefield said. Morris has been active in Theological Education by Extension (TEE) in Malaysia.

The East Malaysia Baptist Convention was just organized in September. Southern Baptists have had missionaries in both states in East Malaysia. In Sabah, the other East Malaysian state, Morris and other missionaries at one time were stationed in Sandakan, Tawau and Kota Kinabalu. But no Southern Baptist missionaries have been stationed there for several years.

In Sarawak, the C. T. Braughtons were stationed in Miri but because of unrenewed visas have been reassigned to the Philippines. Morris and the G. Harold Clarks were at Kuching. However, upon Clark's death in February, Mrs. Clark transferred to Singapore.

The H. Earl Bengs Jr. family was stationed at Simanggang until Clark's death, at which time they moved to Kuching to help with the work there. Their visas were renewed to last until they come home on furlough in June 1977.

In West (Peninsula) Malaysia, some 400 miles across the South China Sea from East Malaysia, the visa situation appears much better. Mr. and Mrs. Crane, involved in TEE, and Mr. and Mrs. Sears, who will work at the Baptist Theological Seminary, Penang, were granted visas and will join the three couples now in missions work there--Mr. and Mrs. Roger Capps and the Jack Shelys in Penang, and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith in Kuantan. Two other couples are applying for visas to re-enter West Malaysia at the end of their furloughs.

West Malaysian authorities seem to recognize the need for missionaries to train national leaders, Wakefield said.

On this basis, Wakefield said he is optimistic "about the possibility of new missionaries in Malaysia receiving visas for leadership training, especially after Sears and Crane had visas granted and Morris had a one-year extension."

In the light of the accelerated growth in Malaysia, a tremendous need exists for training of Baptist leaders, Wakefield pointed out. "It represents not only a great need but a wonderful opportunity for missionaries to serve in such a rapidly growing area," he said.

Last year, churches in East Malaysia reported a 67 percent growth, according to Morris, press representative for Malaysia and Singapore.

Golden Gate to Honor Its  
President & First Lady

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary President and Mrs. Harold K. Graves will be honored in a Silver Jubilee Celebration on the school's campus here, May 24. He will also be honored on at least two other occasions.

Graves has been president of Golden Gate 25 years and will retire on July 31, 1977.

A series of events in his honor are scheduled; including a May 24 worship service at which 25 alumni, representing each of the graduating classes over which Graves has presided, will be present.

The May 24 events will include a breakfast hosted by the student association, a luncheon hosted by the alumni association, and a faculty dinner in the evening.

On June 15, the school's trustees will join the alumni at a luncheon honoring Graves, during the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City. The event will be held in Grand Ballroom of the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel. Reservations are necessary, and tickets will not be sold in Kansas City, a school spokesman said.

The seminary's trustees and faculty will also honor Graves in mid-April during the school's annual trustees' meeting.

Graves was elected president of the seminary in 1952. Under his leadership the school moved from Berkeley, Calif., to a newly constructed campus on Strawberry Point in Marin County, in 1959.

In 1973, the seminary's Los Angeles Center (now called the Southern California Center) began holding classes for pastors in the area. And in recent years total enrollment for the seminary has set records, with the highest, 475 students, enrolled for 1976-77. Golden Gate alumni now total almost 4,000.

Dallas College Starts  
Center on Seminary Campus

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Baptist Press  
4/4/77

DALLAS (BP)--Dallas Baptist College will begin offering extension classes on the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth this fall.

The courses will be geared primarily to spouses of seminary students who have not completed their degrees as well as to seminary students who have not completed their college credits and to Fort Worth area residents.

"Many times when one marriage partner enrolls in seminary, it is necessary for the other to work to help defray expenses. The educational level between the two begins to widen which eventually could lead to problems. This is one problem we feel we can help with our extension courses at the seminary," said Jim O'Dell, academic dean at Dallas Baptist College.

The extension center was initiated after a survey among students and their spouses on the campus determined that the classes would fill a definite need.

Dallas Baptist College will provide limited scholarships to seminary spouses who enroll in the extension program. This would include husbands of women enrolled in the seminary as well as student wives.

"Students enrolled in the Dallas Baptist College extension program will not be able to complete their degree program in Fort Worth," O'Dell said. "Some on-campus work will be required. But it will give them a good start." The college is 35 miles from the seminary.