

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041

DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996

MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461

NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461

RICHMOND Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 12, 1977

Southern Baptist Relief

Efforts Grow Rapidly

77-66

By Ruth Fowler

RICHMOND (BP)--In only seven years Southern Baptists have moved from a \$100,000-a-year world relief program to one that leveled off at more than \$1.6 million in 1976.

A major part of this growth occurred in one year (1975) as world attention focused on the great human needs resulting from the 1974 floods in Bangladesh and famine in West Africa. Giving to world relief jumped from \$299,000 to \$1,670,000--an increase of 485 percent. At the same time, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was reaffirmed as the world relief channel for Southern Baptists.

"It takes a little time to gear up for the spending--the wise spending--of more than \$1.6 million," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's coordinator for hunger response and disaster relief. "But today we are spending it wisely in more than 33 nations, using missionaries as administrators of funds and considering each of the projects carefully."

During 1975, the board appropriated \$1.24 million for use in relief projects. In explaining the difference in the amount given by Baptists and the amount appropriated for use that year, Grubbs pointed out that the giving called for a greater volume of planning to be done on how to spend the money wisely.

"Giving and appropriations are leveling off, almost even with one another," he said. "The board is moving ahead to use every available dollar for world relief."

Grubbs pointed out that during the second year of the increased giving by Southern Baptists (1976) the appropriations made by the board almost equaled the amount received. The last appropriations included in the 1976 figures were made at the Dec. 13 board meeting, although funds continued to come in throughout December.

As giving and appropriations increased, so did the number of nations being helped and the number of projects involved. Developmental as well as disaster response projects were intensified. Rebuilding continues now after the 1974 flood in Bangladesh and famine in West Africa which originally focused world attention on the hunger problem.

More disasters have claimed lives and property around the world, and in 1976 a total of 33 nations received aid. Some of these areas are now moving into a rebuilding process.

Relief aid was increased to areas of slowly developing or long-standing hunger problems. Projects, such as agriculture, water control and vocational rehabilitation, gave whole communities new hope for the future in various countries, such as Brazil, Bangladesh and the nations of Eastern and Southern Africa.

In some areas, people who had never had a fresh water supply now have pure water because of wells dug through the use of Southern Baptist relief funds. People who had never had land of their own now have use of land which they cleared and fenced through a Southern Baptist rehabilitation program. Others will have a new skill that will enable them to support their families more adequately because support from Southern Baptists enabled them to attend trade schools.

"We're not just dealing with volume buying of supplies and services, but with individual men, women and children," Grubbs said. "Each project touches many lives, changing them forever. We want only the best work to be done in the name of our Lord."

Grubbs does not believe the giving will drop significantly. "The consciousness of Southern Baptists has been raised," he said. "They will not soon forget the hungry and the needy of our world."

Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the board, expressed gratitude for the relief funds.

"With the world food problem and the unchecked population growth, it seems evident that major efforts in relief will be necessary for many years," Cauthen said. "Southern Baptists are showing their gratitude for the board's service as their relief channel. Thus has it been utilized for decades in this labor of love." -30-

(BP) Photos will be mailed to state editors.

Convention Gains 430 New Church Training Programs

NASHVILLE (BP)-- Southern Baptist churches began 430 new Church Training programs during the past six months in a special emphasis coordinated by the church training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

According to reports from the 33 state Baptist conventions, more than 16,800 persons were involved in new Church Training programs Sunday, April 3, which was designated as New Day for Training throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

With another year remaining in the three-year New Day for Training emphasis, the total number of new Church Training programs begun since October 1, 1975, now total more than 1,100.

Although this year's emphasis fell short of its goal of establishing one new program for each association in the Southern Baptist Convention, several state conventions exceeded their goals.

The Florida Baptist Convention, which set a goal of 47 new Church Training programs, reported a total of 65, and the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, with a goal of 14, began 16 new programs.

One of the smaller conventions, the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, recorded the best percentage of new Church Training programs with a total of 10 compared to its goal of three.

The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention matched its goal of 15 new programs.

Other state conventions which fell below their goals but still reported significant increases were the Alabama State Convention with 51 and the Baptist General Association of Virginia with 27.

-30-

Courts Redford
Dies in Missouri

Baptist Press
4/12/77

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP)-- Courts Redford, 78, former executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Home Mission Board died Monday, April 11, in Springfield, Mo.

Funeral services were to be held in First Baptist Church of Bolivar, Mo., on Thursday, April 14, with burial in Bolivar.

Redford, who headed the Home Mission Board from 1953 to 1964, had been ill since suffering a heart attack in January.

Since his retirement from the board, Redford had been president emeritus of Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, which he headed from 1930 to 1943. He later served the college as interim president, 1967-68.

The directors of the Home Mission Board also had designated him as executive secretary emeritus.

Redford, born Sept. 4, 1898, in Calhoun, Mo., was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, the University of Missouri and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

He had been assistant pastor of First Baptist Church in Shawnee, 1921-23, professor of Bible and religious education at OBU from 1923-25, professor of religious education at Southwestern Seminary, 1925-27, and secretary of the stewardship and Brotherhood departments for the Missouri Baptist Convention from 1927-30.

In 1943, he was called to assist J. B. Lawrence, then Home Mission Board chief executive, to help supervise general work of the board and take responsibility for student summer missions programs and mission work in Alaska, Cuba, Panama, and the Canal Zone.

-more-

"Dr. Redford was a genuine, Christian, self-sacrificing person," said Arthur B. Rutledge who succeeded Redford as executive and retired himself at the end of 1976.

"During 11 years as the chief executive, he gave strong leadership to the board," Rutledge said. "He was instrumental in starting a number of new ministries and gave strong emphasis to evangelism and starting new churches, emphases which are now at the forefront of the board's work with Bold Mission Thrust."

Rutledge, who directed the board's missions division under Redford, added that the years 1954-64 were "years of great expansion into the 'pioneer' areas."

Redford was chairman of the Southern Baptist Inter-Agency Council in 1958 and 1959, and also served on the Southern Baptist Convention Jubilee Advance Committee, the 30,000 Movement Committee, the Joint Committee on Canadian Work, and was SBC representative on the Joint Committee for Jubilee Advance. He wrote numerous articles and three books.

His widow, the former Ruth Ford, resides in Bolivar. Survivors also include nine children.

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist papers by Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.

#

Good Relations in Ethiopia Cited;
Cannata Still Being Detained

Baptist Press
4/12/77

By Susan Cahen

RICHMOND (BP)--The government of Ethiopia has always been very receptive to Southern Baptists' approach to mission work in that country, reports Southern Baptist missionary field representative John R. Cheyne, who has just returned from Eastern Africa.

"We have been in full cooperation with the government every step of the way," said Cheyne. (As field representative Cheyne is a liaison between the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and missionaries in Eastern Africa.)

Cheyne made the statement as Foreign Mission Board officials continued to be hopeful for the release of Dr. Samuel R. J. Cannata Jr., missionary doctor who has been held for questioning since April 3 in Addis Ababa. Ethiopian officials have given no reason why Dr. Cannata is being detained.

Dr. Cannata's questioning and arrest followed political developments in recent months which have resulted in house-to-house searches by government troops. Those searches, the Ethiopian government has said, are directed primarily at the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and three Ethiopian groups they blame for turmoil in the country.

Davis L. Saunders, Foreign Mission Board area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, said the questioning of Dr. Cannata does not appear to be related to any official government position on Southern Baptists. He said word has just been received that the government has granted a work permit for a new missionary pastor to enter the country.

The pastor is scheduled to serve at the English-language Christ Chapel Church in Addis Ababa, the capital city.

Dr. Cannata has been a pioneer in Baptist work in Ethiopia. His arrival there followed that of Cheyne, then a missionary to Ethiopia, and the William E. Lewises (former Southern Baptist missionaries).

It was Cheyne and Lewis who worked with government officials in attaining work permits and determining the main thrust of future Southern Baptist work--a community development ministry.

Then Dr. Cannata arrived, becoming one of the first to help carry out their new ministry. Following study of the Amharic Language, the primary language of Ethiopia, he began his work in the Menz District. The area is an extremely rugged mountainous area inhabited by extremely conservative people. It was the community development approach which helped to win their acceptance of the Baptist ministry.

-more-

Cannata set up several itinerant clinics--most of them in areas accessible only by plane or by four-wheel-drive vehicle. He encouraged the people served by these clinics to assist in building their own clinics so that he would have a medically sterile place in which to work and also one that would belong to them.

Within the past year, Dr. Cannata and his family have moved into the town of Alem Ketema in the Meharbete District at the invitation of the local governor general. Because of heavy rains and flooding in the area, the Cannatas have lived in their new home only for short periods.

However, future projections call for the establishment of new medical work in the district while he continues to visit established work in the Menz District.

While in Menz, Dr. Cannata was joined by other missionaries who helped expand the community development ministry. Veterinarians and agriculturists have helped to upgrade stocks of sheep, cattle and chickens so that they produce more and better wool, more meat and milk, and larger eggs. And, missionaries have also done crop experimentation. All of these efforts have aided the local farmers, who have special problems because of the high altitude.

In addition to agriculture and medicine for the people and their livestock, missionaries have been involved in building bridges and roads, in giving vocational training to various groups, in use of mass media work and in doing general evangelistic work--both in English and the Amharic language. The central office for the missionaries is in Addis Ababa.

Missionary R. Clifford Staton, a civil engineer, has designed and supervised the building of a footbridge over a stream inundated during heavy rains. Another missionary, Donald Kirkland who is a pilot, flies other members of his mission team to areas highly inaccessible because of mountainous terrain.

Still another missionary has begun a mission handcraft school which was originally aimed at teaching rug weaving to deacons (apprentice priests) and priests of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

The missionary, Raymond V. Lindholm, has studied weaving in Mexico and has been able to incorporate new techniques into traditional Ethiopian rug-weaving skills. He also invented a special spinning wheel particularly suited to the kind of flax the Ethiopian people are using to weave linen.

Ethiopia, larger than Texas, Oklahoma and Arizona combined, has been linked with Christianity since the fourth century. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the state church, claims 94 percent of the Christian population.

Thirty-five to 40 percent of the country's more than 26 million inhabitants are Christian. Another 35-40 percent are Muslim, with animists and traditional African religions making up another 5-15 percent of the population.

Because some persons claim adherence to the Christian or Muslim faiths but still practice traditional religions, it is difficult to get any positive line of distinction among them.

-30-

Susan Cahen is a former staff writer under temporary assignment with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

(BP) Photo of map mailed to Baptist state papers.

#

'Delightful' Stir Surrounds
Carter's Easter Visit

By Lynn Clayton

Baptist Press
4/12/77

CALHOUN, Ga. (BP)--Robert Maddox was greeting Sunday morning worshippers as they left the auditorium of the First Baptist Church here, when one faithful church member paused to deliver a heart stopping message. She whispered: "We may have a visitor with us Easter."

Maddox swallowed hard as he felt his heart skip a beat. The member added, "Don't say anything about it yet."

-more-

The 40-year old pastor did not need to ask the visitor's name. The message was whispered by Judy Carter, daughter-in-law of the President of the United States.

After the visit was confirmed, Maddox said that he and the "Calhoun branch of the Carter clan" began to focus on the tone and style of President Jimmy Carter's visit to the northern, rural Georgia town of 10,000 and its First Baptist Church.

Maddox was already acquainted with the aura of the presidency. He attended the 1976 national Democratic Convention and the inauguration of President Carter and had met him formally twice. Maddox "felt as comfortable as possible" because of the character of the family of the President's son, Jack Carter, 30, a local attorney and church member, and because President Carter, "as a Baptist, is one of us."

Maddox admitted that the activities leading up to the President's visit "were just plain fun for me. I had a ball."

On the Monday before Easter, the reality of the visit began to take a very tangible form. An advance group of Secret Service men came to work out final plans. The national and state media came to ask questions and to take pictures.

Maddox said strange memories of Norfolk, Va., rose in his mind as the Secret Service began talking of passes for the Easter morning service. At the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk, thousands of convention messengers without special passes--many of them angry--were denied entrance to the meeting hall for security reasons during President Ford's visit there.

"We decided there just wasn't any other way to insure our own members a seat. Last year at Easter we had a capacity crowd, and that was just plain home folk," Maddox said in a Georgia accent as heavy as the President's. The church's auditorium seats 800 people, although average attendance is around 400.

"We gave passes to all our members who wanted one, and passes for their special guests. We began issuing them on Wednesday before Easter and by Wednesday morning they were all gone," he said.

"Much to my delight, we didn't have any really bad scenes. A couple of people came back to visit in Calhoun and were upset when they found they would be unable to attend, but the great majority were fine," Maddox said with relief.

The final week before the President's visit "flew by" for Maddox. His first meeting with the President came swiftly and unexpectedly. He recalled: "Our music director, Harvey Bitton, and I went out to the airport just to see him come in on the helicopter. By happenstance we ended up in the receiving line.

"He came down from the helicopter, and suddenly I was shaking hands with him and introducing myself. I told him we were looking forward to having him worship with us. He smiled and said, 'Oh, yes, I've been reading about you in the newspaper and seeing you on television.'

"Then, I introduced him to Harvey. The President said, 'I'll bet you and the choirs have been practicing a whole lot.' I could hardly believe it. The President of the United States joking so personally," Maddox said.

After visiting with Jack and his family on Saturday, the President's visit with the church on Sunday began sharply at 9:40 a.m. He had grandson Jason in his arms.

President Carter went to the only all-men's class, taught by the regular teacher, Jim Tamplin, 64, a druggist. Mrs. Carter went to a ladies class, taught by a long-time acquaintance, Mrs. Vivian Henderson.

Maddox said the only "nervous" time came at the close of Sunday School: "We had asked the teachers to dismiss just a minute or two early, but excitement of the day sort of overtook them and they dismissed unusually early--especially the President's class.

"I had slipped into the auditorium to get alone, so I could spend some time in prayer," Maddox recalled. "I looked up and here came the President, 25 minutes from the time worship was to start. I thought, 'What am I going to do with the President for 25 minutes?'

"Pre-service music had been arranged, and the pianist began playing. The organist began a mini-concert for 15 minutes before time for worship," he continued. "The organist was playing a beautiful Bach piece. I looked at the President to see if he was annoyed (by the delay). His head was bowed--sort of holding his face in his hands in prayer. And I thought, 'My soul, if the President can sit still and pray, and meditate, then I can too.' It really freed me," Maddox said appreciatively.

The worship service was conducted as it had been planned weeks before the church knew the President was coming. The children's choir, youth choir, and adult choir sang. Judy Carter brought the children's message in the early part of the service.

During the children's message, the only unplanned humorous event occurred, Maddox recalled. "One little boy went up to where the children had gathered at the pulpit, where Judy sat. He sort of looked around and the President was just about 10 feet away. The little boy's hand shot up and waved to President Carter. The President smiled and kindly waved back."

The pastor's 18-minute sermon, entitled "The Light From Under the Door," was based on Matthew 28:1-8.

The service ended, and Maddox escorted President Carter and his family from the auditorium. On the way out, an elderly lady who was not a member of the church, according to Maddox, caught the President's hand and pulled him down where she could speak to him.

She said, according to Maddox, "I love you so much and I pray for you everyday." Maddox quoted the President as saying, "Thank you so much, I really need your prayers. Thank you."

Maddox said that at the car the President complimented the service and apologized for any inconvenience his visit caused. "I assured him he was welcome to come back and cause such a delightful commotion anytime," Maddox said.

-30-

Floods Ruin Churches, Homes; Relief Efforts Launched

Baptist Press
4/12/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Floods which devastated parts of four states left behind a mixture of the ugly and the beautiful, according to reports received here from hard hit sections of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The flooding, brought on by 24 hours of heavy rainfall, caused rivers to overflow to record levels, destroying millions of dollars of property, taking lives, and leaving thousands homeless and without food and water.

But, across the scarred, mud-covered country side, scenes of people sacrificing to help each other caused one pastor's wife, Mrs. Earl Waugh of Allen, Ky., to comment: "I believe the Lord is going to use this ugly mess to make something beautiful."

Reports, hampered by downed phone lines and severely damaged roads, are still sketchy about damage to churches and church members and about church-sponsored relief efforts.

No reliable information is available on the extent of damage to churches in Virginia or Tennessee, but reports coming out of Kentucky and West Virginia, as relief workers make their way through the soggy mess, indicate flooding damaged a number of churches and left many Baptist families among the homeless.

The reports also indicate that a number of churches and church agencies have begun relief efforts in addition to other relief organizations.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, which works through state conventions at their request, has already made \$3,000 available to assist relief efforts of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, according to Paul Adkins, the board's director of disaster relief. He said he stands ready to aid others.

The board has also assigned Harry Hearn, director of Christian social ministries, to work with the American Red Cross in Bristol, Va., to assist in coordination of all relief efforts in the four-state area.

-more-

The West Virginia Convention, churches in the state and churches from outside the state have already sent relief funds and supplies into the West Virginia disaster area--especially the hard-hit area around Williamson, where over 10,000 persons, most of them elderly, were left homeless.

The state convention's chief executive, John Snedden, told Baptist Press that relief efforts are being channeled through East Williamson Baptist Church, which has cleaned up its damage and established a relief center, under the leadership of pastor, O'Dell Clay. He said the church will make \$10,000 from its building fund available for disaster relief and noted that a Presbyterian church in the Charleston area has sent \$1,000.

Snedden said W. D. Sharp, an area missions director actively involved in relief efforts, has served as a channel of communications to the state offices. He urges any aid be channeled through the state office in St. Albans and that persons send money, rather than goods, unless specifically asked to do otherwise.

Meanwhile, Bluefield College, a Baptist school on the Virginia-West Virginia border, has sent 15 students and three representatives of administration and faculty to aid with cleanup. Pam Gunsten, assistant professor of health and physical education, led an early contingent, followed later by Gerald White, dean of students, who piloted a small plane into the area, and David Roberts, director of public relations.

In Kentucky, where rising waters wreaked heavy damage in small towns, early reports from staffers of Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, and the Western Recorder, state Baptist news publication, indicate damages to a number of churches.

D. M. Aldridge, president of Clear Creek Baptist School, dismissed classes, and the school, which escaped damage, set up housing for some 400 homeless persons, according to Maynard Head, director of public relations.

Working around the clock, students, who had earlier gone door-to-door urging families to evacuate, went into mountain hollows with sandwiches, drinking water and changes of clothing.

Flood waters reached the balcony railing of Pineville's First Baptist Church, causing extensive damage and destroying a newly-installed \$90,000 pipe organ. Members gathered there on Easter Sunday morning for a brief worship service before beginning cleanup. Flood waters also extensively damaged the parsonage of Pastor Charles F. Jones.

Sketchy reports indicate other damaged churches in Kentucky include the First Baptist Churches of Allen, Loyall and Martin, among others. Many members of the churches and pastors lost most or all of their belongings.

"My guess is that at least 98 percent of us lost our belongings," said Dean Pack, pastor of the Loyall church, who lost contents of his own home. "At this point I don't know if we'll ever rebuild," he said of his destroyed church. "A lot will depend on what financial assistance our sister churches can provide."

A radio station in Pineville credited an airlift of food by helicopter, organized by First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, as "the lifesavers of the community," where 2,000 of the town's 3,000 residents evacuated their homes. The church later sent a caravan of vehicles with other relief supplies.

Meanwhile, Middlesboro had also suffered damage and the church had met crisis in its own city by providing shelter for about 40 homeless persons and free meals and clothing.

Reports indicate a number of other Baptist churches also launched relief efforts, including East Cumberland Church, Middlesboro; Binghampton Church, Middlesboro; Harlan Church, Harlan, which the Red Cross designated as a community disaster center; First Church, Whitesburg; Irene Cole Memorial Church, Prestonburg; and others.

Irene Cole's pastor, W. D. Jagers, a member of the local rescue squad, left a revival meeting to return to help. Traveling by truck, he dispensed powdered milk, distilled water, canned goods and staples, and words of encouragement and Christian testimony.

Residents in the areas of the four states, which President Jimmy Carter has declared a disaster area, may not recover for years, observers indicate. But their ability to rise to the emergency has amazed many.

W. B. Bingham, pastor of the Binghampton Church in Middlesboro, recalls standing in the ruins of a home owned by members of his church, leading them in a prayer. As he started to leave, they placed two envelopes, containing their tithes, in his hand. He tried to refuse but they remained firm. "No, it's not ours," they replied. "This is the Lord's money."