

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 30, 1977

77-174

**Grain Silos Part of Baptist
Food Resource Work in Ghana**

TAMALE, Ghana (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in the northern area of Ghana are building silos for better grain storage in an effort to help the farmers of Ghana preserve food resources.

Farm families depend on stored grain for food throughout the dry season following each harvest and throughout the rainy season before the new harvest. As rains come to prepare the ground for planting a new crop, grain stored in traditional silos often becomes mildewed. Rodents and insects also cause considerable losses.

Southern Baptist missionaries are teaching the people to build silos which have proper ventilation to prevent mildew and which cannot be penetrated by rodents. A special chemical is also used in silos to limit infestation by insects.

These better silos can cut to almost nothing the present loss of 30 to 50 percent of the total stored, according to John R. Cheyne. Cheyne, Southern Baptist missionary to East Africa on assignment with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as associate consultant on hunger and disaster response, recently toured several agricultural and food resource projects in Africa reporting on the progress of existing programs and the establishment of new ones.

Ghana farmers can build the new silos for about \$50 each. Thus a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appropriation of \$2,500 for silos will build 50 of them.

"Translated into pounds of grain this means cutting the loss by about 2,400 pounds in each silo," Cheyne said. "This is a total of about 120,000 pounds of grain saved yearly. If we were to purchase the grain to give out when people become hungry, \$2,500 would only buy about 40,000 pounds."

Jess B. Thompson Jr., Southern Baptist Missionary agriculturalist working with the silo project, recommended that in addition to the silos the missionaries might supervise the digging of wells at each site and introduce superior seeds and fertilizer in a general improvement program.

Combining the wells, seed, fertilizer and better grain storage, Thompson hopes to help bring about long-term improvements in food production and the food resources of the Ghana farmers.

With changing weather patterns and increasing population it is especially important that land and grain resources be used to their optimum, Cheyne stated.

In other parts of Ghana, Baptists are involved in special food resource projects for school children. These projects include distribution of a high protein food mixture of wheat flour, sorghum and powdered milk.

"Each child is given a large bowl full," Cheyne said. "It is intended to be taken home, mixed with water and cooked into a porridge, but many of the children eat the dry mixture on the way home."

Grain is also being transported from Takoradi, where it is available through government sources, to Nalerigu, where it is needed. Southern Baptist missionaries are using special appropriations to pay for the transportation.

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All of these projects combined are a part of the effort to help Ghana put its natural resources to their best possible use. "Food resources are becoming a growing concern in a growing world," Cheyne said.

W. Eugene Grubbs, hunger relief and disaster response coordinator, is scheduled for a visit this fall to Ghana and other nations in West Africa to assist in planning to meet immediate needs caused by prolonged drought.

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(BP) Photos to be mailed to Baptist state papers by the Foreign Mission Board.

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Heart Center Opens At
Baylor Medical Center

Baptist Press
9/30/77

DALLAS (BP)--The opening of the Hunt Heart Center at Baylor University Medical Center here is considered by Texas Baptists as a milestone in their hospital ministries.

The H. L. and Ruth Ray Hunt Heart Center, which officially opened Sept. 25, received a substantial donation from Hunt Oil Company and members of the family of the late H. L. Hunt, Baptist philanthropist and businessman. Mrs. Hunt, a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, decorated the lobby of the center named for her and her late husband.

Dr. John Hyland, Heart Center director, said the center provides "total patient care" from diagnosis and treatment of cardiac illness through rehabilitation. The center will combine the skills of physicians, therapists, chaplains and dieticians to minister to the physical and emotional needs of an estimated 50,000 patients and their families each year.

The Hunt Heart Center will function as an integral part of the 1,275-bed Baylor Medical Center, which has five hospitals and 30 operating rooms. The Medical Center's Department of Cardiology was established in the early 1960s.

Baylor Medical Center is one of eight hospital complexes owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Of the 158,013 patients admitted to the eight hospitals during the past year, 855 made professions of Christian faith and 4,282 made Christian rededications.

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Tragedy Moves Oil Field
Worker Into Ministry

By Aubrey Rodgers

Baptist Press
9/30/77

PORT WORTH (BP)--Ken Hurley recently began serving his first pastorate in a small mission church located in New Holland, Pennsylvania. Not a particularly remarkable feat for a recent seminary graduate.

However, the circumstances and changes which led Hurley, at age 42, to give up a comfortable lifestyle, enter the seminary and then begin serving this mission church are remarkable.

The changes for Hurley began with a family tragedy in 1971 when his three children drowned in a Father's Day outing at Lake Arrowhead.

"They just got too far out from shore and fell in a hole or something," Hurley said, remembering the sadness of the day.

While searchers were trying to find the bodies of Lisa Kim, 11, Kenneth Jr., 8, and John David, 7, Hurley watched from the shore.

As he stood there he had an experience he described as finding Jesus Christ, bringing to an end his life of conflict.

The following Sunday, Hurley was baptized at Fairway Baptist Church.

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"The next week, during the funeral, the people of Wichita Falls were just wonderful," Hurley said. Donations raised more than \$7,000 to pay funeral expenses. News media carried the report of the triple drownings nationally and donations came from all parts of the country.

"It's just an example of God's love that I had never realized. This gave me a totally different attitude toward people. Before, I had always been fighting and running from people," he explained.

Now, "My desire is just to love people and try to teach them the word of God, and to introduce the lost to Him," he continued.

"I want to thank everyone who helped and to apologize to those I've offended, and to invite everyone to my ordination service."

Hurley, a Saint Jo, Texas, native, had spent much of his life working in oil fields. He started at the bottom and worked up, eventually owning an oil lease.

Along the way, he also spent three years in the Marines as a jet mechanic and earned 91 semester hours at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Tex.

His father was killed in a traffic accident when Hurley was three. He reports he grew up with a lack of guidance and full of rebellion. "Actually, I was looking for Jesus, but wasn't aware of it all those years," he said.

"My wife and I have been attempting ever since then to live our lives for the Lord. She had been having a lot of problems that just disappeared that day," he said.

In 1975 Hurley quit his job with Fort Worth & Denver Railway, sold his oil lease, paid off his debts and enrolled in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

"I had a little GI Bill left and the Lord got us through," he said. Some Christians helped with gifts.

After a year and nine months, he earned the Diploma in Theology.

But the call to a local church did not come quickly. For nearly three months, the Hurleys waited for a church position to become available.

Never daunted, Ken Hurley knew God had a distinct purpose in mind. So he patiently waited. Finally, a small mission church in New Holland, Pennsylvania, called Hurley.

The church is so small it is unable to fully support Hurley's ministry. Fortunately the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board will subsidize his salary.

And now there are the challenges of a struggling young church. But Hurley is confident those problems can be worked out, just as all the others have.

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Women in Church Vocations
Consultation Set for 1978

Baptist Press
9/30/77

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Plans are underway for a Consultation on Women in Church Related Vocations which will be held in Nashville, Sept. 20-22, 1978, according to Catherine Allen of the Woman's Missionary Union, chairperson of the consultation.

The consultation, a project approved by the Inter-Agency Council of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), is supported and planned by eight SBC agencies.

The agencies planning the meeting are the Sunday School Board, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Christian Life Commission, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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"This consultation is designed to enable denominational agencies to secure data, to examine issues and to serve more effectively by studying the involvement of women in church related vocations," said Allen.

She went on to say the consultation will not make specific recommendations to the participating agencies. Instead, the end product of the meeting will be a body of information, ideas and findings which the agencies may use if they choose to do so.

"We plan to look at the present involvement of women in church related vocations, study trends in this area and identify barriers to greater involvement," she explained. "We will look at the subject's biblical and theological, cultural and social, and psychological aspects."

The consultation, she continued, will also explore options for vocational participation by women in the denomination.

"This is not a consultation designed to study the ordination of women," stressed Allen. "There are many more issues concerning vocational involvement for women in our denominational life and these areas are the focus of the consultation."

Attendance is limited to those Southern Baptist Convention agencies and state conventions which are invited by the sponsoring agencies. Though participation must be limited to about 300 persons, some invitations will be sent to the general public.

Personnel from the participating agencies are working on committees to plan the program, local arrangements, finances, publicity, and to process the findings.