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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Baptist Relief Work Aids
Victims of Beirut Fighting

By Frances Fuller

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--The Baptist relief committee in Lebanon has spent more than \$6,000 in the past month alleviating the suffering of war victims.

The victims included members of the Jerius Toume family, who lived under a tree for 31 days afraid to return to the area where they'd been living.

The committee used more than \$3,000 to buy foam mattresses, blankets, sheets, towels and clothing for people who fled their homes in areas of fighting. The goods were distributed among thousands sleeping in schools, churches and open fields.

These included the family of Toume, a gatekeeper at the Beirut Baptist School. They have repeatedly endured homelessness and material loss. Since 1975 they've been unable to go to their farm in South Lebanon. During the fighting of 1975-76, they lost their possessions and place of residence in a Beirut suburb. More than 60,000 persons lost their lives in that civil war.

When recent fighting broke out between the Syrian peace-keeping forces and the rightist militia, the Toumes were living in a damaged building in a badly scarred community. But the building, hit several times during shelling, began to collapse.

The Toumes and their six children fled on foot to an area north of Beirut, where they lived for 31 days under trees, wearing the same clothes they had on when they escaped.

Meanwhile Southern Baptist missionaries searched for them to offer help. A missionary found them two days after they had obtained shelter in a Catholic school. The Baptist relief committee came to their aid.

The Baptist committee, made up of local Baptists and missionaries, also allocated money to assist a pastor and several other specific families.

Other relief money is being used to help the Badarro Street Baptist Church repair damage to its building and to replace broken windows in several homes.

The relief committee expects that many families will find their apartments looted when they return home, and the committee will try to ascertain the extent of need created by the looting problem.

Premises of the National Baptist Church in Ashrafiyeh, a Christian suburb, have been occupied by a right-wing military group. This includes a ground-floor apartment used for church services and the pastor's home above it. The pastor is in the United States and a Baptist family living in his home was absent when the apartments were seized.

Relief money is supplied through a July appropriation of \$25,000 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

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Frances Fuller is a Southern Baptist missionary to Lebanon

(BP) Photos mailed 8-11-78 may be used with this story. Church in photo is Badarro Street Church.

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Extension Center Study
Gains ACE Endorsement

WASHINGTON, D. C. (BP)--Fourteen college level courses taught in Southern Baptist Seminary Extension centers have been given identical credit recommendations extended earlier this year to the same courses offered through the Seminary Extension Department's Home Study Institute.

The expanded endorsement by the American Council on Education's Office on Educational Credit came following a careful evaluation by council officials of the academic standards for college level courses in Seminary Extension centers. The council found the Seminary Extension courses equivalent to courses of three semester hours credit at the nation's colleges and universities.

"The council's earlier study of Seminary Extension's 'high activity courses' was in a project designed to evaluate correspondence courses only," explained Raymond M. Rigdon, Seminary Extension Department director. "We're grateful to the council for making the additional study of our extension center system and expanding their credit recommendations to cover courses offered in both of our delivery systems."

Many Seminary Extension students take some of their courses through home study and some through centers. The same study materials are used in both systems. "Now students can get the same credit for their work in either system when they seek to transfer to a college degree program," Rigdon added.

The ACE recommendations will be published in the 1978 edition of "The National Guide to Credit Recommendations for Noncollegiate Courses," an objective reference to which college registrars may refer when evaluating an in-coming student's transcript. The registrar then makes the final determination about how much credit toward a degree plan will be granted for each course.

Bob I. Johnson, director of the Seminary Extension Department's extension center section, noted that a large number of students could be affected by the new endorsement. "We've had about 8,000 students enrolled in our centers this year. Getting a new taste of formal study through an extension center encourages many persons to consider enrolling for a degree program at a Baptist college."

Seminary Extension is a Nashville-based arm of the six Southern Baptist Theological seminaries. It has more than 300 centers throughout the United States in addition to its Home Study Institute.

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Mission Service Corps
Lacks Enough Sponsors

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
8/15/78

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Mission Service Corps assignments are being slowed because of the lack of available sponsorship, David Bunch told more than 2,500 persons at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Bunch, director of Mission Service Corps coordination for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, briefed participants at Home Missions Week on the status of the denomination's plan to send 5,000 one-and-two-year volunteers to the field by 1982 to supplement career home and foreign missionaries.

"We currently have 60 persons who have been processed and approved who could go to the home mission field immediately if they had financial sponsorship," Bunch said. "Some of those persons have partial sponsorship but do not have sufficient funds to allow them to serve on the field."

So far, Bunch said, 134 persons have applied for home missions service through MSC. Of that number, 47 have been assigned and 38 of those are serving on the field. These figures do not include Foreign Mission Board totals.

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Of the 38 persons already on the home mission field, nine have full sponsorship provided by persons who made commitments during a dinner in Washington, D. C., last May for interested Baptists who have financial resources.

The dinner was coordinated by Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, and former SBC President Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss. President Jimmy Carter addressed the dinner.

"As a result of the dinner, MSC has received total commitments of at least \$750,000, of which \$150,000 already is flowing to MSC sponsorship" (home and foreign), Bunch said. Eight individuals at that meeting already have begun supporting the nine Home Mission Board MSC volunteers and are committed to support six others.

He added: "We have heard criticism of the Washington meeting by some SBC leaders who seem to be waiting for something to go wrong. I think it is time for those persons to get off that negative note.

"Even though it has taken three months to get the funds flowing and to the fields, we have commitments of \$750,000 for MSC from that meeting," he emphasized. "I think that's pretty good. Generally, it takes much longer than three months to get Cooperative Program gifts from the church to the field."

Commenting on the report, William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, noted: "There are hundreds of people who want to serve the Lord who are only awaiting financial sponsorship to go to a mission field. There are hundreds of young people who want a career in missions who are waiting on funding so they can be appointed.

"Southern Baptists must be far more responsible in the giving of our money to fund the kind of advance we need if we are to present the Gospel to every person in our land by the year 2000," Tanner said. "We must go beyond the price of a Quarter Pounder or a Big Mac," he continued. "On the average, each Southern Baptist gave about the amount of a hamburger to home missions last year. We must do far better than that if we expect to win our land."

Bunch said Southern Baptists are in a learning process about Mission Service Corps, which was adopted by messengers to the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

"Mission Service Corps is a totally new approach to providing missionary personnel," he said. "Because Southern Baptists are so numerous and so diverse, it is taking time to teach everyone the how to of MSC."

Bunch noted Southern Baptists "are unaccustomed to securing their own sponsorship. We have been slow--so far--to accept the responsibility for developing our own financial support. The slowness is not negative. We are just learning how to do it. In fact we are moving faster than I thought we would.

"We have had a tremendous number of inquiries, and now some persons who made inquiries are beginning to respond with applications," he said. "Since many of our people work, it has taken time for them to arrange schedules and their jobs so that they may serve in one or two year appointments.

"Everywhere I go, however, I find people excited about getting into MSC," he said. "This includes church, associational and state leaders as well as individuals. But most people are moving cautiously because they want to make certain they do it right."

Dale Evans Credits Son
With Influencing Her Life

By Laura Deni

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--Entertainer and writer Dale Evans, wife of cowboy star Roy Rogers, credits her son Tom Fox, 50, a minister of music at Arcade Baptist Church near Sacramento, Calif., as the one person who changed her life.

"My son asked me to commit myself to Christ, and I did just that," she says.

Fox was born when she was just 16-years-old and Dale found herself as a working mother, left alone with the young child, after her first husband deserted her.

She and her first born are extremely close. She laughs that the mere 16-year difference in their ages is a "marvelous" advantage. "I can really relate to him now."

Dale openly speaks out against mistreatment of children, because she candidly admits that she neglected Tom after her first marriage broke-up.

She also worries that the women's movement encourages families to dissolve.

"I'm really afraid of the Equal Rights Amendment," she says. By that she means she fears that women who don't have to work outside of the home will get employment, because they are made to feel "inferior" by the large numbers of women entering the labor movement.

She's also opposed to the use of day-care centers for working mothers. "Children have to be taught ideals and truths, and the day care centers can't teach them that."

Dale agrees with Anita Bryant's stand on homosexuality. "I cannot sit in judgment of anyone," she stressed. "I have been forgiven a great deal myself. But there are some things that God just does not condone, and homosexuality is just one of them--it says so many times in the Bible.

"I don't know Anita personally," she continued, "but from what I understand, she's a very compassionate person and staunch Christian. I don't think Anita hates homosexuals."

She met Roy Rogers in the winter of 1947. They married that New Year's eve and have been happily married for 31 years. They live on their ranch in Apple Valley and are frequently visited by their six living children, 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

"I believe in an abundant life," said the 66-year-old Miss Evans. "That means a full, satisfying relationship with God. We have to get back to absolutes in this country. We can't live without standards."

Author of 15 religious and inspirational books, she is currently working on a new one--"Woman."

"It will be a study of womanhood, clear back to Eve," she related. "I want to find out where we are now and how we can best serve God and future generations."

Looking back over his 90 movies and 101 half hour TV segments, Rogers added, "We always tried to represent the good life and provide good, clean entertainment. Both are still active in TV, in parades and on rodeo and state fair tours.

The western pair also believe that the good life they were chosen to exemplify goes deeper than the image they portrayed on motion pictures and television screens. "We never were big swingers as far as the Hollywood night scene goes," added his wife. "We found other things that satisfied us more, namely our family."

"We have always been church going people," added Rogers. "We believe in Christ and Christianity. And people all over the country know it."

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Laura Deni is a freelance writer living in Las Vegas, Nev.



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