



-- FEATURES

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Baptists Battle Devil,
Dengue In Honduras

By Tim Nicholas

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (BP)--The female of the species caused a lot of grief in Honduras this summer.

The species is *Aedes Aegypti* and she's a mosquito. She transmitted a serious flu-like illness called Dengue to about 200,000 Hondurans.

The number stricken was kept even this low because of the combined efforts of the Honduran government, a Southern Baptist medical missionary, and Baptist lay volunteers from both Honduras and the United States.

David Harms, medical evangelist working near the El Salvador frontier, heard about the Dengue outbreak in early August. He read a book on tropical fever and called the authors in the States on his ham radio. He also called Walter Reed Hospital where he was told only a few people had been vaccinated against the fever and it was too early for field trials.

The only thing that would work would be to control the vector--the mosquito which transmits the fever from one person to another.

R. L. Tindol, a Baptist layman in Atlanta and a pest control expert, contacted by ham radio, told Harms what kind of pesticide and machines to use. Then Harms went to the Honduran health department mosquito control office. Short on the necessary supplies, the mosquito control people requested that the Honduras Baptist Mission obtain a spraying machine and the insecticide.

The national Baptist convention adopted the project and kicked in \$2,000 toward purchase of equipment. The SBC Foreign Mission Board responded with \$10,000.

Baptists brought in three used spraying machines and installed them on trucks belonging to the Baptist mission. Harms explained that Hondurans identify North Americans with technology.

Groups from Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Mississippi and Florida followed each other's stints on the sprayers. To effectively wipe out the mosquitoes, which only fly about 25 yards from their birthplace, takes three 10-day rounds of spraying.

Health department officers supervised the spraying and helped route the trucks which went everywhere--from the downtown streets to the red-light shanties.

The sprayers received accolades for their work. The people readily recognized the aid being given. Though a brick was thrown at one truck, most kids cheered and adults smiled and waved--and covered their mouths--the spray tasted awful.

The week before the Mississippi and Florida crews were in town, only 12 cases of Dengue fever were reported. Half of the fever cases had previously been reported in San Pedro Sula.

As the incidence of fever went down, the image of Baptists in Honduras improved. Baptists had "a low profile" previously said Harms. However, they were quickly identified as the "Dengue people."

The Louisiana volunteers were on national television. Newspaper headlines read: "Baptists Declare War on Dengue." Honduran Baptist preachers gave television and radio interviews. The minister of health in a press conference credited the Baptists with being a great help.

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On Sept. 15--Honduras' independence day--the Baptists participated in the parade in San Pedro Sula. Two of the trucks equipped for spraying, plus the mission's van, drove in the procession with nationals passing out tracts in Spanish.

The tracts were especially written by Harms in connection with the Dengue work. Entitled "Dengue and Your Spiritual Health," the tracts pictured the devil and a mosquito on the front. Harms, who sports a handlebar moustache and goatee, had to change the picture of the devil before publication--because Harms thought it looked too much like himself.

The spraying has further implications. Harms woke up the vice minister of health at 6 a.m. to contact the mayor of New Orleans to begin plans for the city of New Orleans to equip a Honduran DC-3 for spraying in other parts of the country.

Harms is establishing rapport through the Dengue work that he had not been able to achieve in his six years in Honduras. And he's become involved in something more than remediation. The Dengue work was prevention.

And an ounce of prevention can kill a lot of mosquitoes.

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(BP) Photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Mississippi Baptist Record.

Some Missionaries Leave,
Others Remain in Beirut

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BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--Three Southern Baptist missionary couples and a missionary journeyman have left Beirut as the result of extensive fighting between Christian rightist militia and the Syrian peace-keeping forces.

The missionaries planned to return by mid-October if fighting subsided. Some other missionaries plan to leave Beirut if a cease-fire, which began late Saturday, Oct. 7, after a summit meeting between the presidents of Lebanon and Syria, does not hold up. Thirteen missionaries and their seven children and one volunteer remained in the country as of Oct. 9.

Mr. and Mrs. Tome R. Hayes of Louisiana and Oklahoma and their two children have gone to Cairo, Egypt. Other missionary personnel went to Amman, Jordan. These include Mr. and Mrs. Mack L. Sacco of Illinois and Oklahoma; Mr. and Mrs. James P. Craigmyle of Indiana and Maine; and journeyman Russell Wayne Futrell of Louisiana. The Saccos had their four children with them.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Edward Nicholas had left Beirut earlier to serve the English language congregation in Ankara, Turkey, for two to three weeks. The church's pastor, James F. Leeper, had been asked to leave the country because of residence permit difficulties which had also resulted in a brief imprisonment for Leeper. Leeper's family is staying in Ankara while efforts are being made to obtain permission for him to return to Turkey.

Some newspaper accounts call the recent fighting the most devastating in the country's four-year history of civil unrest. Estimates indicate as many as 700 may have lost their lives during the first week of October alone.

Southern Baptist missionaries are stationed in both the Muslim and Christian sectors of the city. Both sections reported unstable electric and water service, and some residents of the Christian portion lived in basements for days to avoid the shelling.

No damage to Baptist property and no loss of life among missionaries and local Baptists have been reported.

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Foreign Fields Send Plea For 1,451 Missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Missionaries on 92 fields are calling on Southern Baptists to reinforce their ranks with 1,451 new missionaries in the next 12 months.

The new personnel requests seek half again as many missionaries as the 2,832 already serving overseas through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

More than 70 percent of the job requests are in the evangelism and church development category, with general evangelists again heading the list of priority needs.

But the range of needs is wide, with requests being made for new personnel in 59 different kinds of jobs. These range from a food production specialist in Bangladesh to a French-language editor to help prepare printed materials needed in the French-speaking countries of West Africa.

The requests, decided upon in meetings of missionaries on each field, were reviewed as the board's missionary personnel department brought in its regional personnel representatives to meet with home office staff and area secretaries.

With 45 more new missionaries expected to be approved at its October meeting, the Foreign Mission Board, which approved 279 in 1977, is almost assured of topping the 300 mark in appointments this year for the first time. But even these record numbers will fill less than a fourth of the overseas needs for career missionaries, emphasizes Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for missionary personnel.

"Southern Baptists are going to have to face up to some very significant decisions about the role that God may be expecting them to fill in this day of Bold Missions," Cobbs declared. Although unsettled conditions prevail in many areas, he noted that such periods often are the time when people are most open to changes in their way of life--including the willingness to hear the gospel message.

Some mission fields waited years to fill critically needed jobs. So far this year, only five persons--two couples and a single literacy worker--have been sent for all of West Africa.

"This has been a lean, lean year for us," says John E. Mills, area secretary who coordinates the work of 328 missionaries in the nine countries in that sector. "We do have another couple and a single person being considered for appointment later this year, but our missionaries are asking us, 'Hey, what does all this Bold Mission Thrust really mean to us out here on the field?'"

They're still waiting to see Southern Baptists' commitment to Bold Missions, made at the denomination's national convention earlier this year, express itself in missionary appointments for their areas, Mills said.

This year's personnel requests include 315 general evangelists, 68 teachers for seminaries, institutes or Theological Education by Extension, 25 religious education promoters, 16 student workers, 15 musicians, 13 youth workers, 7 English-language pastors, and 15 others to do work related to evangelism and church development.

Medical requests are again urgent, as the board seeks 29 physicians, 8 dentists, 14 nurses and 12 other medical personnel. Forty non-theological educators are needed--11 for the elementary level, 13 for secondary, 12 for college, and 4 in other categories related to this specialty.

The list also points up needs for 24 media workers, 18 business personnel, 5 in support ministries, and 40 in a variety of other positions, including 16 for agricultural evangelism.

To find the total number of people requests from the missions represent, the board just about doubles the request total since most can be filled by a couple. In addition, the total includes requests for about 125 missionary journeymen, those who go for a two-year period after college.

Cobbs also cited many opportunities available for single men and women. Almost a fourth of the total job requests could be filled by single women, and 41 requests specify single women. A total of 201 requests are open to single men.

Major needs in areas hurting most for new personnel include:

East Asia--General evangelists and urban evangelists are needed to assist in evangelization of Hong Kong; six general evangelists and two student evangelism workers are needed in Korea; and 10 general evangelists top the personnel needs for Japan, where half the career and associate missionary force will reach retirement age within 12 years.

Upper Volta and Ivory Coast--General evangelists are requested to take advantage of responsiveness in these French-speaking West African countries. Cities with 25,000 to 70,000 population have no Baptist witness.

Bangladesh--Four general evangelists are sought for rural outreach in the villages where people are particularly responsive now, and a food-production specialist and a biochemist also have high priority.

Thailand--Nine requests are listed for missionary evangelists to work in the Bangkok metropolitan area to implement an urban strategy program that seeks to start a house church in every neighborhood of the city. Others are needed to help develop churches in rural areas near the cities and to work with refugees.

Rwanda--Two teams of two couples each are needed to work in the rural areas of this small but densely populated country in central Africa. Each team would include an agriculturalist and a veterinarian. In addition, at least one more general evangelist would be needed to work with the teams.

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Runners Race For
Foreign Missions

By Jennifer Hall

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10/10/78

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--At the 18-mile mark Bob Shoemake wondered how much farther he could go. A few miles behind, Stan Nelson said he felt he was trying to run up a down escalator.

But amid sweat, the smell of Ben Gay and thousands of cheering spectators, Bob and Stan of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board made it--all 26.2 miles of the first Richmond Newspapers Marathon, Oct. 8.

They ran not for themselves (although the thought lingered), but for Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. Between the two they raised more than \$300 from board employee pledges. And as individuals they earned the distinction of finishing among 900 men and women who persevered out of 2,700 entrants.

The two novice runners took their challenge seriously--and painfully. "I'm hurting," winced Nelson as he slumped in the front seat of his red Volkswagen just minutes after crossing the finish line. Shoemake was astounded he did so well. "When I took my first time check at the 5-mile mark, I was running faster than before. I got panicky...at about mile 18 I thought I'd die."

But each claimed "something psychological" clicked inside which enabled them to attain the goals set months ago. Shoemake, 34, logged a time of 3 hours, 57 minutes for the rigorous course of slopes, bridges and downtown winds, placing 474th. Nelson, 47, was clocked at 4 hours, 35 minutes, capturing 752nd place. Two hours, 28 minutes was the first place time.

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What began as a joke for the avid joggers, become solemn work. Shoemake and Nelson, office manager and associate secretary respectively of the board's missionary personnel department, each followed a 13-week program. The two persisted in training--running while on business trips and during missions conferences.

"You might say we held to our schedules religiously," quipped Nelson.

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(BP) Photo to be mailed to Baptist state papers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

Cowboy Kicker 20,000th
Member of Dallas Church

Baptist Press
10/10/78

DALLAS (BP)--Dallas Cowboy place kicker Raphael Septien became the 20,000th member of First Baptist Church, Dallas, during services here honoring Pastor W. A. Criswell's 50th year in the ministry and 34th as pastor of the church.

Septien, who kicked last year for the Los Angeles Rams in the National Football League, succeeded the Cowboys' All-Pro place kicker Effren Herrera, who was traded to the Seattle Seahawks after a contract dispute following the Cowboy victory in the Superbowl.

The 24-year-old Septien, a native of Mexico, first began attending a Baptist church in Lafayette, La., with his girl friend, Linda Council, whom, he said, "led me to the Lord." At that time he was at Southwestern Louisiana University on a football scholarship.

News commentator Paul Harvey was the featured speaker at both morning services, Oct. 1, honoring Criswell, former Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor of the largest church in the SBC since 1944. At the evening service, Criswell preached the first sermon he delivered as an 18-year-old preacher at First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, entitled, "What Do Ye More Than Others," (Matthew 5:47).

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Seminary Professor Elected
Editor of Research Journal

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10/10/78

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Joseph A. Callaway, professor of Old Testament archaeology and director of graduate studies at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was elected to a three year term as editor of the Annuals of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

The Annuals, published continuously since 1920, contains archaeological excavation reports of projects sponsored by the ASOR.

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Baptist Agency Pledges
Support for SALT II

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10/10/78

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has pledged its support in the Carter administration's efforts to fashion a new strategic arms limitation treaty--SALT II--with the Soviet Union.

Negotiations toward a seven-year SALT II agreement to limit production of strategic arms were suspended until late October after recent high-level talks failed to resolve several remaining issues blocking a new treaty.

The commission, the social concerns agency of the 13-million member denomination, has communicated its support of the SALT II process to President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, along with Paul Warnke, chairman of the U. S. delegation to SALT II, and members of Senate subcommittees which will deal with a draft of the treaty.

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According to William H. Elder III, the commission's director of Christian citizenship development, the agency has pledged to inform Southern Baptists about the "positive and moral values" of a second strategic arms limitation agreement and to urge them "actively and prayerfully to support that process."

"Establishing such a treaty is a morally responsible act on the path toward the higher and broader goals of international justice and peace," said Elder. "To fail to take such a step would further open the floodgates of both nuclear proliferation and great economic strain and suffering."

Elder added that the agency also hopes to help correct the "too frequent misunderstanding that a strategic arms limitation treaty with the Soviets is tantamount to unilateral disarmament by the United States."

The Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in annual session in Atlanta in June, passed a resolution on "Multilateral Arms Control," which one official in the administration's Arms Control and Disarmament Agency described as a "breakthrough in the public's perception of where Southern Baptists are on this issue."

The resolution called upon Southern Baptists to "support the continued efforts of our national leaders to achieve strategic arms limitations" and to urge their Congressional representatives "to move in imaginative and reconciling ways to shift funds from nuclear weapons systems to basic human needs."

In spite of the recent stalemate in discussions between the two superpowers, negotiations are reported to be "95 percent" complete and President Carter has said that the administration still hopes to reach its goal of drafting a SALT II agreement by the end of the year.

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Editor's Note: A background statement on SALT II has been sent to Baptist state paper editors by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Baylor Receives
Foundation Gift

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WACO, Texas (BP)--Baylor University has received a gift of \$500,000 from The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston to establish the Herman Brown Endowed Chair in Economics. The chair will be the first endowed position in the department of economics in the Baptist school's Hankamer School of Business.

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Baptist School Gets
\$1.1 Million Trust

Baptist Press
10/10/78

ABILENE, Texas (BP)--Hardin-Simmons University has received a trust of \$1.1 million from a couple who will remain anonymous.

The couple is from west Texas and had already given gifts to the Baptist school in Abilene, Texas, in excess of \$400,000. Both the husband and wife graduated from Hardin-Simmons in the 1920's.

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October 10, 1978
Center Isolated in Mass
Meets Need in South End

78-164

By Elaine Furlow

WATERBURY, Conn. (BP)--Across from a red-brick factory where Spanish-speaking blue-collar workers keep time to three o'clock whistles, the Christian fish symbol marks the only Southern Baptist center in New England: Centro Bautista.

The center has some of the best recreation equipment in Waterbury's South End area: pool table, air hockey game, ping pong.

"If I can get them in the building the first time, they'll usually come back," says Bob Allensworth, a Virginian who became the center's first full-time director in 1976.

Though he speaks no Spanish, Allensworth attracts about 45 young people a week with his program of Bible study and recreation.

When he first came to Waterbury, Allensworth quickly found it necessary to wear a clerical collar to avoid confusion. "In the Puerto Rican neighborhood, the only reason an adult male would have to contact a girl would be for sex," he explains. "Identifying myself as a Baptist minister didn't mean anything. I was somebody nobody knew anything about."

Inside the center, identification seems little problem.

"Hey, Bob! Hey, Bob!"--the constant clamor fills the room with calls for help with weight lifting, arbitration on a pool shot, compliments on a neat coloring job, advice on making a metal bracelet.

Allensworth moves through it all with an easy, unharried stride, raising his voice only occasionally, playing pool only often enough "to keep their respect."

At 8:30 he locks the kids out--it's perhaps the only way he'd ever get them to go home--and pulls down the white shade saying "closed."

"You'd think after a day at school, they'd wear down, wouldn't you?" Allensworth says, when at almost closing time noise has not subsided, energy levels remain high. "It's tiring. It drains you. It's much harder than I anticipated."

After early vandalism, center windows were boarded up. "Now the kids identify the stuff as being partly theirs. They take care of it. We've had a few checkers missing, but that's it," the youthful home missionary says.

Day-glo posters on the wall proclaim "God Is Love" and "Love Is Kind" in vivid pink and yellow and orange and green. Yet even their brightness can't hide the shabbiness of the room.

When Allensworth first came to the center, converted from a meat market on the first floor of a four-story brick building, he found two inches of sewage backed up in the basement. It was cleaned out--but the smell lingered for months.

Allensworth "thought it was terrible" the first time he saw the place. "But I had felt a calling to New England for a long time," he remembers.

That call was stronger than his disappointment.

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