

October 11, 1978

78-165A

Dialysis 'Miracle' Helps
Minister Work in London

By James Lee Young

LONDON--Luther Mann, a Southern Baptist minister from Lakewood, Colo., is thankful for what he considers a miracle from God, the kidney dialysis machine.

Mann, who recently took disability retirement as pastor of Applewood Baptist Church, is also thankful for the National Kidney Centre in London--the only one he could attend in the United Kingdom that takes "holiday" or overseas patients.

The capability to receive dialysis in London enabled Mann to lead one of four teams from his church to participate in a World Evangelism Foundation Partnership Mission crusade, sponsored with 53 Baptist churches in Britain.

The first Saturday morning after his arrival in London, Mann boarded a bus bound for No. 1 Fairholmes Garden N. 3, to undergo a four-hour dialysis treatment, one of six he would take at the center while in Britain.

The treatments, to remove waste from the blood when the kidneys fail, were set up two months prior to the World Evangelism Foundation trip in which 375 participants, all Southern Baptists from the United States, engaged in the "Partnership Mission," at the invitation of British Baptist churches.

At the center, Mann weighed in, his blood pressure was taken, and he inserted the needles into his own arm. The minister chatted amiably with the nurses throughout the process, talking about the treatment and machines, using in-house terms as though he were a doctor rather than a patient.

He also talked about the work in which he and the Applewood teams, along with other Americans, were to participate. His team would work with the Sudbury Baptist Church.

Team members would preach, visit church prospects, speak in schools, lead Bible studies, house meetings, and a round of dinners and other events, tell about their homeland and talk of their experiences with Jesus Christ.

The Colorado minister said he was anxious from the outset to see what the overseas involvement of his laypeople would do to Applewood Church, which long has been a state leader in giving to home and foreign missions.

Concrete evidence of the benefits came through the church's consistent passing of goals for Southern Baptists' Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. Last year, the church passed its \$50,000 goal.

Applewood Church also has sent five families as career Southern Baptist missionaries. Two other families have gone with other mission organizations. At least seven Applewood members are in seminary training for Southern Baptist mission work.

American and British coordinators, at the close of the eight-day London effort, reported about 500 professions of faith in Jesus Christ, over 500 re-commitments of lives to Christ, and about 10 decisions for special Christian service across the country. In one case, a young American team member volunteered his life to full-time Christian ministry.

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Federal Workers' Religious
Rights Protected By Law

WASHINGTON (BP)--Federal employees whose religious beliefs require them to take time off from work occasionally will be allowed to work overtime to make up the lost time, according to the provisions of a bill signed into law by President Jimmy Carter.

The Federal Employees Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules Act of 1978 contains a section which permits federal employees to make up lost time rather than having it deducted from annual leave or losing pay.

Previous law required that overtime work be compensated by time-and-a-half pay, which in some cases made the costs of allowing workers to make up time prohibitive. Under the new law overtime for religious observances will be at regular pay rates.

U. S. Rep. Stephen J. Solarz, D.-N. Y., who introduced the amendment providing for the religious rights of minority groups, was commended by Carter for his "sensitivity to this religious problem and for his innovative solution."

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President Carter Signs
Uganda Trade Embargo

By Carol Franklin

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WASHINGTON (BP)--An immediate and complete embargo on trade between the United States and Uganda was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter as a part of a bill authorizing expenditures for the international monetary fund.

The measure, sponsored by U. S. Sens. Lowell Weicker, R.-Conn., and Mark O. Hatfield, R.-Ore., cuts off coffee sales, which provide the bulk of Uganda's money supply, and the sale of American goods to Uganda.

Weicker said that 85 percent of the Ugandan government's revenues come from coffee sales and the majority of that money goes to support President Idi Amin's military rule.

"Our purchases of Ugandan coffee have been instrumental in keeping Idi Amin's murderous regime in power," Weicker said. "It is a one-crop economy, based on coffee exports, and the United States last year bought one-third of all the coffee Uganda exported."

Weicker also noted that there's little chance the people of Uganda will be much hurt by the embargo, since Amin's regime has forced 90 percent of the population into subsistence farming.

"Nowhere in the world are basic rights and freedoms being more abused than in Uganda, and nowhere do American dollars and products serve a worse government or play such a vital role in its survival," Weicker said. "By imposing this total trade embargo, the United States truly is notifying the world that we no longer will be a partner to genocide--and will, in fact, become an active opponent."

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Board Welcomes European Control of Seminary

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has assured European Baptists that it welcomes their acceptance of administrative responsibility for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and voted an additional \$33,333 toward the seminary's anticipated budget deficit for this year.

The European Baptist Federation Council agreed at its September meeting in Vienna, Austria, to accept sponsorship of the financially troubled international seminary, which ministers to Baptists in 26 different countries.

On the basis of a report by three representatives who attended the Vienna meeting, the Foreign Mission Board took action in October, spelling out the details of its relationships to the seminary during the five-year period of the new agreement, which takes effect Jan. 1.

The board said it will continue to support Southern Baptist missionary faculty members for the seminary, will provide "so far as possible" capital funds to meet urgent repair and maintenance needs, and will allow some of the student apartments to be rented to non-student families to help supplement the seminary's income.

Also included was a pledge that "in case funds available prove insufficient for operating the seminary in its present form" the Foreign Mission Board will support the European Council in developing "alternative forms of theological education on an international scale."

The board reaffirmed its pledge to provide \$300,000 annually for the seminary's operating expenses between 1979 and 1983, plus an increase of \$5,000 each year starting in 1980.

Administrative responsibility for the seminary will be delegated to an executive board responsible to the European Federation and the Foreign Mission Board. The Foreign Mission Board's field representative for Europe normally will represent the board as its only voting member on the five-member group. The board's area secretary for Europe and the seminary president will sit in as non-voting members.

Since missionary Isam Ballenger now serves as both the seminary president and field representative for Europe, the board designated another missionary, John W. Merritt of West Germany, to serve on the new executive board at this time.

Raymond L. Spence Jr., chairman of the special subcommittee appointed to study the Ruschlikon Seminary problems and one of two board members who accompanied area secretary J. D. Hughey to Vienna in September, said strong evidence exists that European Baptists are rallying behind the seminary to keep it alive.

Already this year, he said, the equivalent of 140,000 Swiss francs (about \$93,333 U. S.) has been given by European Baptists--far more than the amount provided last year.

In a special report to the board, Hughey noted that financial pressures at the Ruschlikon Seminary have increased in recent years as the American dollar has declined in value. Until six or seven years ago, he said, the dollar was worth about 4.3 Swiss francs. Today it is worth about 1.50 or 1.60 francs--only 35 to 37 percent of what was "normal" for many years, he explained.

"Dollar devaluation this year has been disastrous," Hughey said. The Foreign Mission Board's \$280,000 subsidy to the seminary for 1978, at a 1.60 exchange rate, amounts to 448,000 Swiss francs--102,000 francs less than the subsidy which the board gave the seminary six years ago, he pointed out.

At the beginning of 1978, it was estimated the seminary might run \$100,000 in the red this year. The board's action in October appropriated one-third of this amount. The rest was expected to be met by European Baptists and through economy efforts at the seminary.

Hughey praised Ballenger for his "superb leadership in very difficult times" at the seminary. He said seminary faculty members are willing to stay in spite of uncertainties about the seminary's future and that students have expressed willingness to live in more cramped quarters and to do everything possible to keep the seminary going.

"I share the hope of European Baptists that the basic program at Ruschlikon can be continued," Hughey said. "Let us give our hearty thanks for the privilege of partnership with European Baptists and do our best to be loyal and effective partners."

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Work Started on Mauritius, Suspended in Seychelles

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists will begin work on Mauritius, a 720-square-mile island in the Indian Ocean, 500 miles east of Madagascar, but suspend work in the Seychelles.

Mauritius will be part of the new Indian Ocean Islands Mission, approved by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at its October meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Wood, Oklahoma natives, will transfer from Zambia to Mauritius, where he will coordinate the use of Southern Baptist volunteers in community service work requested by the government.

The new mission field will be Southern Baptists' 93rd, but the total may stand at that mark only a few months. On Jan. 1 the board will suspend work in the Seychelles, another Indian Ocean island group where Southern Baptist missionaries worked for a year on a special arrangement with the government. Unless another new country or territory is entered before that date, the mission fields total will drop back to 92.

Although the door will be left open for future government requests for missionaries to work in the Seychelles, the missionaries who have served there now will transfer to other areas.

Mr. and Mrs. William P. Steeger began work in the Seychelles in August, 1977, and served there for a year, teaching in a secondary school and conducting Bible studies for young people in their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond V. Lindholm, formerly missionaries to Ethiopia, joined the Steegers in the Seychelles earlier this year, but transferred to Rwanda when a contract to establish a community center was denied.

In Mauritius, missionary Wood will offer the volunteer service of Christian specialists provided through the Foreign Mission Board to do community service projects requested by the government. He also will work with the Chinese Baptist Fellowship on the island and investigate the possibility of other mission-sponsored activities. Initially, he received a one-year residence permit, normal procedure for new persons entering the islands, a part of the British Commonwealth.

Mrs. Wood will do home and church work but anticipates a possible assignment in community development activities.

Though the large Indian population of the island is Hindu and Muslim, the remaining African, European, Malagasy and Chinese populations are primarily Christian.

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15-Member Search Group Named To Seek Cauthen's Successor

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--A 15-member search committee headed by M. Hunter Riggins Jr. of Poquoson, Va., was named Oct. 11 to begin seeking the person who will succeed Baker J. Cauthen as executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board when he retires at the end of 1979.

The committee, appointed at the board's annual meeting in Richmond, was asked to bring a progress report to the board's April meeting in Kansas City and a full report at the August or October meetings.

Cauthen, who has guided Southern Baptist foreign missions in its period of greatest growth, will continue to serve through 1979. He will reach the board's mandatory retirement age of 70 on Dec. 20, 1979.

Six laypeople and nine clergymen make up the search committee. Four women are among its members. All are members of the Foreign Mission Board. It was appointed by Board President William L. Self in consultation with the two board vice presidents at the initiation of Cauthen.

Members in addition to Riggins include Raymond L. Spence Jr. of Richmond; Joyce (Mrs. James A.) Ponder of Jacksonville, Fla.; Joe Neil McKeever of Columbus, Miss.; Doris (Mrs. Ray) Mullendore of Bowling Green, Ky.; James F. Sawyer of Benton, Ark.;

Also, John W. Goodwin of Kansas City, Mo.; Joe E. Trull of Garland, Tex.; Trevis Otey of Jackson, Tenn.; Wynk (Mr. L. G.) Hicks of Clarksville, Ga.; Travis S. Berry of Plano, Texas; John W. Patterson of Richmond; Evelyn (Mrs. J. E.) Collette of Winston-Salem, N. C.; Lonnie H. Shull Jr. of West Columbia, S. C.; and Charles T. Carter of Birmingham, Ala.

Self announced the search committee at the close of the board's business meeting and joined Cauthen in asking Southern Baptists to "pray earnestly for God's leadership in the election of the executive director." The board meeting closed in a time of prayer as the 15 committee members stood at the front of Baker James Cauthen Chapel at the board's home office building.

When Cauthen became the board's chief executive officer Jan. 1, 1954, Southern Baptists had 908 missionaries in 33 countries and a budget of \$9.2 million. Today more than 2,800 missionaries are at work in more than 90 countries or territories and the board has just approved a 1979 budget of over \$71 million.

Under Cauthen's leadership Southern Baptists are working toward a goal of proclaiming the gospel to all people of the world by the year 2000. To help accomplish this, the board hopes to have 5,000 missionaries, assisted by increasing numbers of lay volunteers, serving in 125 countries by the end of this century.

A native of Lufkin, Texas, Cauthen served more than eight years as secretary for the Orient before assuming his present position. He and Mrs. Cauthen, the former Eloise Glass, were missionaries to China from 1939 until his election to the area secretary's post.

In September, 1977, Cauthen suffered a heart attack while speaking at Jackson Way Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala. He had recovered from the attack and resumed his duties last April when he contracted the shingles, handicapping him for several months during 1978. But this fall he has again begun carrying his full load of responsibilities.

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