

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 27, 1978

78-192

Baptists Provide Help  
Philippine Typhoon Victims

By John L. Brackin

MANILA, Philippines (BP)--Only the rooftop sign appeared above the waters, as the muddy current of the Pasig River flowed silently through the open doors and windows of Palayan Baptist Mission. A few days earlier worshippers, loudly singing God's praise, had filled the little plywood building.

Then suddenly Typhoon Kading lashed the island of Luzon with 125 mile per hour winds and torrential rain, leaving thousands of Filipinos without food, shelter, electricity or a place to worship. The homes and church had already stood waist deep in water from Typhoon Yaning, which had struck just two weeks earlier.

No relief aid came after Yaning's passage, since typhoons and flooding are seen as a normal and expected part of Philippine life.

Then Kading hit, and more water swiftly poured in. Those who had two story houses moved their few possessions up out of the water, as ground floors filled completely. Others evacuated to a school. The loss of a chicken, pig, or goat means losing everything, so men stayed in their homes sleeping on the roof to guard against possible vandalism. All of these men stayed wet, several developed pneumonia, and some died.

Flood waters still stand in the chapel and homes and some estimate they will not subside until after Christmas. One of the biggest problems is obtaining uncontaminated drinking water.

Months will pass before lives can return to normal in parts of Manila. So Southern Baptists, assisted by hunger and relief funds allocated by the Foreign Mission Board, are trying to help.

The hardest-hit church in the city is Palayan Baptist Mission located about six miles from Cainta Baptist Church, a new Baptist work with only 13 baptized members. With the help of missionary Jack S. Branan, Cainta Church purchased food, brought it to their homes and worked until midnight packaging it for distribution.

The need is so great in the area that distribution in the crowded evacuation center is impossible. People, there from all over the city, have mobbed or clubbed anyone entering with goods to get part of what is offered. So Pasig Baptist Church, also in the affected area, became a distribution point for rice, whole powdered milk, sugar and dried fish.

About 140 families, or some 890 people, received food from Pasig Church alone. Fifty-seven of these were connected with a Baptist church, but aid was given on the basis of need and not church membership.

About 1,000 families, or approximately 7,000 people, were assisted through other distribution points. The local missionaries cannot give aid to the entire area because of the unavailability of funds, but they have tried to minister to those parts of Manila which suffer the worst from the food shortage.

A total of \$35,000 in hunger and relief funds has been made available but much of the money has been needed in other Central Luzon areas hit hard by the typhoon. Manila missionaries have tried to work through local churches to meet needs with the available funds.

Though Palayan Baptist Mission is the most flooded church of any denomination in Manila, Typhoon Kading also hurt other mission points. Antonio Fortich, pastor of the Pasig

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Church and members of his family carried hundreds of buckets of mud out of the church so that his congregation could worship the Sunday following the storm. Flood waters stood four feet deep Friday evening, but had subsided to leave ankle deep mud and slush by the time for Sunday School to begin.

Many other areas have also suffered. The list of devastation and hunger and even death continues to grow. But through all the tragedy and heartache, Philippine Baptists have kept their faith, used it, and strengthened it.

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John L. Brackin is a Southern Baptist missionary publications worker in Manila, Philippines.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Two Foreign Mission Board photos, mailed 11/17/78, may be used with this article.

Missionary, 3 MK's Leave,  
Others Continue in Iran

Baptist Press  
11/27/78

TEHERAN, Iran (BP)--In the midst of continued unrest and anti-Shah demonstrations, a Southern Baptist missionary and three children have returned to the United States.

Missionary Beth (Mrs. C. Kenneth) Glenn and the Glens' three children left Iran with other Americans who had been working there.

A volunteer, Hubert Williams, tentatively plans to go to Bangalore, India, for the month of December. Other missionaries plan to go to Bangalore if the situation worsens.

Kenneth Glenn remains in Ahwaz, Iran, several hundred miles south of Teheran, the focal point of anti-Shah demonstrations which have broken out intermittently for several weeks.

Elizabeth (Mrs. James F.) Kirkendall said Nov. 27 that the section of Teheran where Southern Baptist missionaries live was relatively quiet. Mrs. Kirkendall reported by telephone to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board that church attendance is good and church activities, including the weekly Bible study, are continuing.

The American school is open in Teheran but all Iranian schools and universities remain closed.

Missionaries have said they will evacuate if the American embassy feels it's necessary. They plan to leave with American business personnel.

Anti-Shah demonstrations have spread around the world to several countries where Iranians live and have included overtones of anti-American sentiments, according to newspaper accounts.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Teheran include the Kirkendalls and their son; Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Turlington, who just returned from a trip to Israel; and Michael Joe Sowder, missionary journeyman.

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Ghana Appeals For Doctors  
In Surgery, Family Practice

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11/27/78

NALERIGU, Ghana (BP)--A severe shortage of surgeons and family practice physicians has hampered Southern Baptist medical mission work in Ghana, according to reports from the Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu.

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The centre, which has only one missionary physician currently stationed there, treats more than 4,800 inpatients and 28,000 outpatients a year.

A recent survey trip of medical work in West Africa brought even more clearly to light the problems of such mass medicine, Harold E. Hurst, associate to the medical consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, reported.

Hurst visited several nations, but found the need for career missionaries in medical work most acute in Ghana, where Dr. Walter M. Moore has been the only missionary physician for many months.

"How long will Southern Baptists allow this to go on?" Hurst asked. "We have an urgent need for surgical and family practice specialists in Ghana right now. Dr. Moore, a public health doctor by specialty, hasn't even had time to develop badly needed community health programs because of the heavy patient load at the hospital."

No alternate medical care is available to the people of the Nalerigu area, Hurst pointed out. He said unless more physicians are found, time demands and the pressing needs will make continued health care for Nalerigu's people very difficult.

Moore agreed with Hurst. "Because of the shortage of physicians, Dr. W. Robert (Bob) Anderson, a dentist, and Diana Lay, a nurse, have had to help in clinics in screening patients as well as on night calls," Moore said.

Dr. Anderson also acts as maintenance superintendent until someone can be appointed. This assignment, which involves keeping crucial hospital equipment operating, is another urgent personnel request from Nalerigu.

The pharmacist, J. Eugene Covington, is still in language study but had to assume his duties before completing his language education because of the personnel shortage.

Hurst said that at times Moore has completed 10 surgical cases and then found 300 outpatients awaiting to see him. This mass medicine, according to Hurst, at best can provide curative treatment for only the most urgent cases. With hundreds waiting to see the doctor each day, it's sometimes impossible to share an adequate personal witness or provide the best quality medical care, Hurst said.

A second physician, Frances Greenway, is assigned to Ghana but has not been granted her visa to enter and live there. Until Dr. Greenway, a long time medical missionary in Rhodesia, arrives, Moore must bear the physician's workload alone.

Supplies for the hospital are also at a critical level. Almost all supplies, including many food items, must be imported and therefore are expensive.

Hurst praised the hospital's ability to hang on and cited its excellent dental clinic and pharmacy. He said local assistants in the dental clinic are well-trained.

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Missionary Nurse  
Hurt In Accident

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JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP)--Lolete Dotson, Southern Baptist missionary nurse in Bophuthatswana, was injured in an automobile accident Nov. 25 in South Africa.

Miss Dotson, hospitalized in Edenvale with a wrist fracture, two broken ribs, and minor cuts on her head, was expected to be released from the hospital after a couple of days.

The accident occurred as she drove from her home in Hammanskraal, Bophuthatswana, to Edenvale, a suburb of Johannesburg, for a delayed Thanksgiving dinner with other missionaries. Missionary Edmond B. Moses, traveling behind her, found her shortly after the accident and took her to the hospital.

Miss Dotson was born in Alabama, but grew up in Rhodesia, where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde J. Dotson, were Southern Baptist missionaries until retirement in 1972.

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Builder Of Kenya Baptistry  
First To Be Baptized In It

By Laura Lee Stewart

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Engineer Salim Saudi's specialty is building bridges, but he used his talents recently to build a baptistry. And he was the first person to be baptized in it.

Saudi, a former Muslim whose wife is a Christian, made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ in May at the Parklands Baptist Church in Nairobi. After some training in his new faith, he was the first of 32 people baptized after a morning worship service in November. Two of his children also were baptized.

The church's interim pastor, Southern Baptist Missionary James E. Green, baptized the new Christians in the outdoor pool.

Previously baptismal candidates and church members had to travel across town to a another church to use its facilities. Realizing the service could have an impact on people in the Parklands area, members began to consider having their own baptistry.

Since their building had been built originally as a ministry center, it was not feasible to install a baptistry inside. An expansion program is under way, but the church did not want to wait until a new building was ready.

They decided to build a concrete pool on the lawn of the church. Saudi assumed the responsibility for supervising the construction. He has since been enlisted by the Nairobi Baptist Association to help with building plans for a hotel in a crowded section of the city.

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Laura Lee (Mrs. R. J.) Stewart is the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's press representative in Kenya.

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

Jess Gandy Named  
To Seminary Post

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11/27/78

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Jess Eddie Gandy, pastor of the Fellowship Baptist Church, Summit, Miss., has been appointed administrative assistant to Don Stewart, executive vice president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Gandy succeeds James L. Minton, who left the position in October to become a member of the seminary faculty.

A graduate of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss., Gandy is now a student in the master of divinity degree program at the seminary. He plans to continue his education after completing his present degree program in May.

Gandy, who will continue as pastor of the Summit church, has been pastor since May, 1977, leaving the Pearlhaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven, Miss., to assume the new pastorate.

In addition to his church-related experience, Gandy, a native of West Point, Miss., has been director of the Medicaid claims office of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi, Inc.

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