



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Volunteers Help Keep  
Rain from Rose Parade

By Don Hepburn

PASADENA, Calif. (BP)--Each year Pasadena sidewalks become temporary home for hundreds of thousands of people who trek to the southern California town for the annual Rose Parade spectacle.

Many arrive up to 36 hours early to homestead premium curbside footage, bringing blankets, sleeping bags and food supplies.

This year, nearly 70 students from California college Baptist Student Unions were ready with a special ministry to the masses who congregated along the boulevards and the forgotten ones who witnessed the festivities through rose tinted windows of convalescent homes.

Given crash courses in aging ministries, street witnessing, identification of people in crisis, balloon art and clowning, the students took to the streets and 15 area homes for aged.

"At this time of the year, when activity is all outside, these people in convalescent homes are the most neglected group," noted L. G. Chaddick, a Christian social ministries worker for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, a sponsor of the effort.

For that reason, the Rose Parade Ministry, as it is called, attempts to "bring the outside beauty of the Rose Parade to the inside," Chaddick said.

At each home residents see a film highlighting last year's Rose Parade, receive a special Rose Parade tract developed by the American Bible Society, and get a long-stemmed red rose.

Preparation for the street phase of the ministry began Sunday, Dec. 31, with an early evening church service. Then a clinical psychologist told volunteers how to identify and deal with people in crisis. They were advised to bring persons who aren't coherent to one of three crisis centers.

"All we are doing tonight is band-aid work, not major psychiatric surgery," Dr. George Martindale advised the students.

By 9 p.m. the students are boarded on buses and transported to Colorado Avenue, the five and one-half mile route for the Tournament of Roses Parade.

The crisp, clear night provided a quiet backdrop to the carnival atmosphere on the street. Lining Colorado Avenue are literally thousands of people who have staked out their curbside home for the night. Many are wrapped in blankets or sleeping bags trying to get some warming protection from the cold night air.

But many more thousands are milling around in a veritable sea of bodies. Walking is difficult, partly because of the numbers and partly because of the bundled bodies stretched along the sides of the sidewalk.

Almost everyone you meet is in a high festive spirit. For many, the spirit has been aided by drugs or alcohol. Adding to the carnival air are street vendors selling everything from pretzels, to balloons, to Rose Parade souvenirs.

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The Rose Parade Ministry students are almost at a loss as to where to begin. But following instructions, they begin engaging people in conversation. To all with whom they talk, they give a special Rose Parade tract which highlights a verse of scripture. It lists a special RPM telephone number should a person desire further information. The other side has a color picture of a red rose.

To persons who seem interested in knowing more about Jesus Christ, the students are armed with copies of "Steps to Peace with God."

"People were basically open if you approached them in a friendly manner, without intimidating them too much," one RPM worker observed. "I liked it."

"A lot of people were just waiting for people to talk to them," recalled Fran Putnam, from California State University. "A lot of people take all kinds of pains to avoid eye contact with you."

Jack Lord, from California State University at Long Beach, viewed the night ministry as "a real eye opener." "I've seen people lying in the streets all mangled and bloodied, people drunk," Jack Lord said. "It's fun to see people celebrating and happy. But with someone lying in the street five feet away, it's hard to believe people don't even see them, they just ignore it."

At the crisis centers, along the parade route, all is quiet. They become a way station for the students taking a break from the street ministry.

A 15-year-old boy encountered by RPM workers was disoriented, claiming to have single-handedly drunk a fifth of whiskey. But before workers can get him to a Red Cross station, he passed out on the street. Police were summoned. Within moments the boy was in an ambulance and on the way to a local hospital.

Another team encountered a street fight in which a man was stabbed. The victim's girlfriend was near hysteria. RPM worker Debbie Crow provided comfort. "We got her all calmed down and that one girl made the whole evening," she said.

Before long it was 3 a.m., but the street was still alive with people and bumper to bumper traffic lining Colorado Avenue. The RMP workers called it a night.

This type of street ministry has no operations manual... "We don't really know what is needed until it happens," observed Chaddick. "But we can anticipate some people just being confused by the mass of people. We can anticipate some people strung out on drugs and we can anticipate some people being on drugs. It is to these people that we can minister."

The unusual ministry was a joint endeavor of the Los Angeles Baptist Association, the department of Christian social ministry and the department of student work of The Southern Baptist General Convention of California, and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

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Floyd Craig Appointed  
N.C. Governor's Aide

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Floyd A. Craig, director of public relations and development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, has been appointed governor's ombudsman and deputy director of the governor's office of citizen affairs for the state of North Carolina.

Craig, who has worked for the national moral and social concerns agency for 11 years, was to begin his new duties Jan. 15. He will be responsible for developing a state-wide communications program on volunteerism, a major emphasis of Gov. James Hunt's administration. As ombudsman, he will coordinate efforts to help state government become more responsive to citizens' needs.

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Christian Life Commission Executive Secretary Foy Valentine commended Craig for "his unique natural gifts and his strong Christian commitment which have very substantially helped this agency in furthering the cause of Christian ethics among Southern Baptists."

A native of Oklahoma, Craig received numerous awards from national religious public relations organizations for his work in communications, including the Religious Public Relations Council's Hinkhouse Award in 1968, '70, and '78 representing overall excellence in public relations.

He has served as president of the Southern Baptist Public Relations Association and has been on the board of governors for the national Religious Public Relations Council. He is author of three books on religious communications, all published by Broadman Press.

Craig will assist Charles Petty, who headed the Christian Life and Public Affairs Council for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina before becoming executive director of the office of citizen affairs last October.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist editors by the Christian Life Commission.

Van Effort Continues  
In Bold Mission Thrust

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Students from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have penetrated their third state with a van ministry that brings them to mission fields in the north.

Charles Chaney and Jim Godsoe of the Illinois Baptist Convention recently delivered a new van to the seminary campus that will provide transportation for students to serve in Illinois churches. Funding for the van and travel expenses will be shared by Illinois Baptists and the SBC Home Mission Board while Southern's alumni fund will be used to subsidize salaries of student workers.

Illinois thus becomes the third of the seven North Central states to participate in this type of cooperative effort. Through similar programs, Southern students are now involved in Michigan and Indiana.

"We hope to have two vans in use by the end of the year," Chaney said. "We plan to use students in established congregations and in starting new ones. We anticipate that the focus will eventually be on the metropolitan Chicago area where we have 200 churches and missions in four associations."

Illinois Baptists share in the North Central States cooperative planning goal to double their churches and membership by 1990.

New congregations will include both English speaking and ethnic groups. According to Godsoe, language missions director, immediate plans call for the use of student leaders for a Spanish-speaking congregation at Danville and a Korean fellowship at Champaign.

Approximately 30 Southern students are now involved in weekend mission activity in Michigan and Indiana. Russell Bennett, director of supervised ministry studies at Southern, sees even more opportunity in Illinois.

"It's difficult work," Bennett said. "Mission work is always hard. But it provides a meaningful learning experience in sharing the gospel in real life which cannot be gained from textbooks."

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## Chinese Church Shows How to Reach Ethnics

MIAMI (BP)--The only Chinese church in Florida is showing evangelicals how to reach ethnic groups.

Riverside Baptist Church is doing more in reaching people in its particular culture than any other church in Miami," according to Richard Bryant, recently retired director of missions for the Miami Baptist Association.

"That church is in touch with 80 percent of the 2,000 Chinese in this community and has reached about 10 percent as members," he said of the 220-member congregation led by Kwong-Wah-Lah, who came here eight years ago from Hong Kong.

"They have exploited their cultural ties and the church has become a Chinese community center," Bryant said. The church began as a mission in the Flagler Street Baptist Church in the 1960s. The mission was constituted as a church in 1973 and that same year the congregation purchased a five-acre site and erected a building to accommodate 200 worshippers. It all is paid for.

Bryant cited a recent baptismal service as an example of how the church is reaching out into the community. The service was held in the home of Fredrico Yen, who is not a Christian but whose wife was one of the converts baptized in the swimming pool.

Eighteen other persons--including people who originated from Puerto Rico, Singapore, Indonesia, Chicago, New York, Hong Kong, Honduras, Thailand, Peking, Taiwan and Miami--were baptized. One, Bob Owers, is an Anglo married to a Chinese girl.

Assisting the pastor in the pool, as about 75 persons looked on, was deacon Samuel Lee, a physics professor at the University of Miami.

"It was a festive occasion that attracted mostly a crowd of young people," said Bryant. "There are enough of them and the professionals and middle class for that church to make a real bid for the total Chinese community. I know of no other church like it."

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## Life Begins at 84 For Retired Deacon

SAN ANGELO, Texas (BP)--Life began at 84 for retired Baptist deacon Juan Nava.

Nava, pastor of the Second Latin Baptist Church of San Angelo, was ordained to the gospel ministry on Thanksgiving weekend. He's been pastor of the Spanish-speaking church for a year, under the sponsorship of San Angelo's Park Heights Baptist Church.

In that year, the 75-member congregation got its feet after a quarter century of foundering. It meets in a new education building that was helped along by a \$5,000 Care and Share matching gift and a \$10,000 Latin American loan for construction provided through the Baptist General Convention of Texas church extension section.

Shortly after Nava became pastor of the church, he was ill and thought he would die. But he says one night he heard a voice in his sleep that said, "'I'm going to give you more life." A few days later he was pronounced healed by doctors at a local hospital.

Soon after he became pastor, seven people came for baptism. On another Sunday, there were seven more. Nava says simply, "The people are happy and giving to the Lord. The church has no problems."

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