



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 24, 1979

79-84

## Champagne Bounces Baptist College From Series

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--Grand Canyon College's top-ranked baseball team will not compete in the NAIA World Series in Nashville because players celebrated victory in the area tournament with champagne.

Administrators of the school, owned and operated by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, said none of the champagne was consumed, but its appearance in the locker room violated published rules prohibiting the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus.

A picture published in a Phoenix newspaper and transmitted around the country via Associated Press news service showed Grand Canyon players pouring champagne over each other after their 10-2 win against San Houston State, May 18.

Explaining the decision to keep the team from competing in the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics World Series, after it had walked over all its competition, Athletic Administrator Bill Estes said, "We have to be most responsible to the constituency that birthed us."

He referred to the 100,000 Southern Baptists in Arizona who founded the college and support it financially, and the other 13 million Southern Baptists in the United States who traditionally oppose the use of alcoholic beverages.

"We're not saying they sinned," Estes said. "But they violated a rule with action that's diametrically opposed to the mandate Arizona Southern Baptists gave us. They gave us a black eye in front of all those people."

"Some things are more important than a winning team. If we had sent this team to Nashville with this black eye, it would have said we're willing to win at all costs."

Estes, a former baseball coach who admitted he's always dreamed of a national championship, said he felt sorry for the players and that the Grand Canyon athletic department may have failed them.

"We did not impart to them, apparently, the role of athletics in a Christian institution," Estes said. "This incident damages us as a Christian institution and hurts our witness as athletes."

Reaction to the decision, was mixed, said Estes and Grand Canyon President Bill Williams, who both emphasized it came after deliberation with representatives of trustees, faculty and campus committees.

Most negative reaction was that the punishment was too harsh. Separate petitions from the faculty and staff expressed overwhelming support of the decision. Jack Johnson, incoming executive director of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, was supportive in a telephone call to Williams.

"We made the best decision we could in light of our understanding of God's will and God will be our judge," Estes said.

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Grand Canyon finished the year with a 58-10 record and the No. 1 NAIA ranking. David Lipscomb College in Nashville, 1977 NAIA champions and runner-up this year to Birmingham-Southern in the Area 5 playoffs, will replace Grand Canyon in the eight-team tournament.

Willard Collins, president of Lipscomb, a Church of Christ school, he said completely understood Grand Canyon's stance and would have taken the same action. David Lipscomb also has rules against the use of alcoholic beverages and Collins said, "I would consider that an improper victory celebration at Lipscomb and we would take the same action."

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SBC Registration  
Process Outlined

Baptist Press  
5/24/79

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)--Messengers registering for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston are urged to bring properly filled-out and signed registration cards to the convention to speed the registration process.

SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter said, "Last year in Atlanta, registration moved so well that no one stood in line more than five minutes. We hope to do as well in Houston.

For the second year, Porter said, registration will open on the Sunday preceding the convention. "To facilitate registration of convention messengers who also attend the Woman's Missionary Union sessions at the Civic Center and the Pastors' Conference at the Houston Coliseum, registration booths will open in the Coliseum from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m., Sunday, June 10. They will also be open on Monday from 8:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. in the Coliseum. Registration will move to the Summit, site of the SBC, on Tuesday morning.

Porter said registration cards are available from state Baptist convention offices. He urged messengers to fill them out carefully in advance because "they become a part of the permanent historical record of the convention.

"If messengers fail to bring proper credentials to the convention," Porter emphasized, "they must contact the credentials committee to receive their cards. The credentials committee must also approve the cards after they have been filled out at the convention. Though this does not usually take more than 10 minutes, it is an inconvenience. To facilitate registration, it is much better to bring cards from your church properly filled-out in advance and signed."

He also urged messengers to write their convention address at the bottom of each card so that they may be contacted if necessary.

Porter said each church cooperating with the convention is entitled to at least one messenger. Up to a limit of 10, each church is entitled to an additional messenger for each 250 members or for each \$250 contributed to the work of the convention.

"Each messenger must be appointed and certified to the convention by his or her local church, and each messenger must be a member of the church by which he or she is appointed," Porter said.

At the registration desk messengers may purchase a Book of Reports for \$2.00.

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May 24, 1979

79-84

Southern Baptists Respond  
To Refugees' Cry For Help

By Anita Bowden  
For Baptist Press

Food and the pots to cook it in, blankets and tents to keep them warm and dry, seeds and tools to help them begin earning their own way again--Southern Baptists have supplied these items and others to some of the world's nearly 10.5 million refugees.

People without a country, uprooted by revolutions and wars, homeless and often destitute, they cry out for help. And Southern Baptists are responding with both physical and spiritual aid.

In 1978 the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appropriated \$153,250 from hunger and relief funds to help refugees in 14 countries. In the first five months of 1979, it appropriated \$231,432 for refugee aid.

In addition, the board has approved \$371,429 to assist families in Uganda who lost crops, farms and homes because of invasions and attacks by troops of former Ugandan President Idi Amin. Agricultural supplies will help the farming communities start over and vehicles purchased with hunger relief funds will transport food supplies to them until their farms begin producing again. Some of the Ugandans who will benefit from this program fled the country as refugees but now are beginning to return home.

Before the new Ugandan government was established, Ugandan refugees who had sought refuge in Kenya anticipated the need to settle into a new society. To help them adjust, the Foreign Mission Board in January 1979 approved more than \$87,000 for a three-year vocational training program in Nairobi, Nakuru and Kisumu. With funds administered by missionary G. Webster Carroll, Ugandan wives began learning how to sew for a living. This project, however, may end in the next few months as many Ugandan families choose to return home.

Other projects in Eastern Africa have included a farming cooperative of Ugandan refugees on land given by a wealthy Christian woman in western Kenya. The board also has assisted in buying food and medicine and paying rent for a month while refugee families waited to be registered and settled in one of the United Nations refugee camps, located mostly in the Nairobi area.

In neighboring Tanzania, \$16,200 was used to buy small farm hand tools for each of 9,000 Tanzanian families who had fled their homes when Amin's troops invaded their area. Their villages, farms and crops destroyed, they are beginning again, with Southern Baptist help, in the Bukoba area of northwest Tanzania.

Major appropriations also have been funnelled into Southeast Asia, where Southern Baptist missionaries work in four Thailand refugee camps. Typical of those receiving help is Lan Thi Huynh. Like others in the camps, she benefited from initial gifts of food, cooking utensils, blankets and clothes. She saw refugees become involved in the farming project, sponsored by Southern Baptists, or learn to raise chickens, rabbits or ducks in another self-help program.

After receiving approval to resettle in the United States, she went to one of the two transit centers where Baptists work with refugees waiting to depart. There missionaries such as Polly Morris teach English and show the refugees how to diaper babies (few infants in their home area wear diapers). They also show them pictures of airports, bathtubs and toilets--things the refugees need to know about in the United States.

Lan Thi Huynh was one of the fortunate ones; she stayed in the refugee camp only three months. Others stay for years, waiting for some country, some sponsor to give them a helping hand.

She was fortunate, too, because she heard about Jesus for the first time while she was in the camp. Although she didn't become a Christian while in Thailand, the words and example of Baptists in that refugee camp helped her to profess faith in Christ after she'd been in the United States two months. She's now a member of a Baptist church in Missouri.

The work in Thailand has been the longest running (since 1975) of the Southern Baptist refugee relief programs, and Uganda has received the largest, most recent appropriations. But refugees in other countries also have received help.

When fighting erupted between guerrillas of the Sandinista National Liberation Front and government troops of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Jr., refugees poured across the country's borders into Honduras and Costa Rica. Southern Baptists responded with \$20,000 in hunger and relief funds. Besides meeting the refugees' immediate food and shelter needs, missionaries showed evangelistic films nightly to help meet their spiritual needs.

Where Baptists give assistance is not an arbitrary decision, according to Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division. Several factors are considered. The foreign government must be willing to accept aid and geographical, cultural and language barriers must not be too formidable. Also, aid is easier to administer, he said, if missionaries are stationed near the troubled area.

Portugal was one of the countries which fitted all the criteria for aid in 1978. Portuguese-heritage families, some of whom had lived in Angola for generations, fled home to Portugal following Angola's independence and ensuing confrontations between factions in that country.

The Portuguese Baptist Convention began aiding Baptist families, but the problem was too vast for this group to handle alone. In April 1978 the Foreign Mission Board appropriated \$10,000. Besides meeting immediate physical needs, some of the money was used to pay school fees so children of unemployed refugees could resume their education.

Some refugee families lived near the Baptist church in Alges, Portugal, where missionary Norman L. Harrell and his family were stationed. The Harrells obtained parents' permission to take the children to Sunday School and gave Bibles to those who could read English. Soon some of the parents began attending church with their children.

Still there are other countries, other refugees who need help. Baptists cannot expect to satisfy all the needs, but they are responding as often as they can, with love, understanding, and hope. (BP)

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Map mailed to Baptist state newspapers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

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**CORRECTIONS:** In (BP) story mailed 5/23/79 entitled "Bonner Named President of Baptist Foundation Group," the vice president was incorrectly identified as Lynn Craft. Please change the first line of the second paragraph to read: Other officers are vice president, Hollis Johnson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Foundation;

Also in 5-23/79 mailing, in story entitled "SBC Seminary Presidents Support Reliability of Bible," please change the seminary enrollment total in page four, paragraph 14 from (about 20,000 total) to (nearly 9,000)

Thanks, Baptist Press