



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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### Delayed Uganda Volunteers Reschedule Departure Date

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Seven Southern Baptist volunteers, delayed from departing for Uganda June 20, were rescheduled to leave July 1 after receiving the nod from Southern Baptist Missionary G. Webster Carroll.

Carroll had asked the team of former East Africa missionary Jimmie D. Hooten of Dallas, Texas, and six MKs (missionary kids) to delay departure after Uganda's ruling coalition replaced President Yussufu K. Lule with new president Godfrey Binaisa the day they were to leave New York.

Team members returned home until Carroll, his wife Betty, and the two other Uganda missionaries, James L. and Linda Rice, could return to Uganda and assess the situation. When the government change occurred, they were in Nairobi, Kenya, for a mission meeting.

An eighth volunteer, former missionary physician Lorne Brown of Lincoln, Neb., continued to Uganda and had begun visits to government officials when Carroll called Foreign Mission Board officials June 26. Carroll said the visits indicated missionaries should have no trouble working with the new government. Brown is assessing medical needs in Uganda to recommend a medical missions program to the Uganda missionaries and to the Foreign Mission Board.

The delayed team will distribute aid through Baptist churches in Eastern Uganda. They also hope to help restore physical and spiritual welfare which deteriorated during former President Idi Amin's rule and the war which deposed him and put Lule in the presidency this spring. Vehicles for the aid distribution and some aid, such as agricultural supplies, are being provided through Southern Baptist relief funds.

MKs on the volunteer team are Jim and Tim Tidenberg, both of Clovis, N. M.; Will Partain of Fort Worth, Texas; James Boone of Friendswood, Texas; David Hooten of Dallas, and Randy Senter of North Zulch, Texas.

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(Editor's Note: As power changes hands in a foreign country, the Southern Baptist missionary is a non-political bystander--uninvolved politically yet closely identified with the people God has called him to work with. One such missionary, Dean E. Richardson, gives a personal view.)

### A Personal View

Thoughts During An African  
Coup: Missionaries Waiting

By Dean E. Richardson

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TAMALE, Ghana (BP)--We heard today (June 4) that an attempted coup is in progress, aimed at overthrowing the government of the supreme military council of Ghana.

The fighting is reported heavy in Accra, but that's 400 long, weary miles from us here in Tamale. There are reports of scattered violence here, so we are maintaining a low profile for the moment.

What do missionaries think about in this situation? How do they react?

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First, there is an almost overwhelming desire to know what's going on. One can't depend on radio broadcasts because they are unpredictable. So we wait anxiously for any tidbit of information.

Our main considerations are twofold. First, what effect will all of this have on our ability to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in Ghana? Whoever wins, will we still have the same freedom to teach, to preach, to plant churches? This is perhaps uppermost in our prayers and thinking.

Second, what of the safety of our own Southern Baptist missionaries in Accra? They are near the area of heaviest fighting, and we pray they may be kept safe during the time of danger.

Other thoughts creep in. While as Southern Baptist missionaries we don't become involved in politics, we know some of the incumbent officials to be active Christians and we pray for their safety. We pray this prayer not because of their political affiliation, but as one Christian interceding for another.

What of our Baptist Christians? Yesterday (Sunday) I preached in one of our larger village churches, about 15 miles from Tamale. I felt strangely impressed to preach from John 9:1-5 and to stress the theme, "Work for the night is coming." I pointed out that the congregation's opportunities to work and witness were not guaranteed. My wife and I wondered as we drove back to Tamale why the Lord had led me to such a message. Today we understand, at least partially.

Personal safety is not a major item with us. I am a combat veteran, and neither of us is easily frightened. We have no children on the field, so that's not a problem. We stand ready to evacuate if necessary, but doubt that will be called for.

We pray also for the nation of Ghana, that divisions might be minimized and quickly healed. And overall, of course, "to God be the glory."

(The coup was successful and the situation in the capital city of Accra quickly returned to normal. Airports and roads are open again. Elections scheduled for June 18 were held peacefully and the new government will take control in a few months. No missionaries were hurt.)

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#### Six Family Church Offers To Resettle 20 Vietnamese

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. (BP)--When Jeff Clark, pastor of the Grace Community Chapel here, read about a Vietnamese family needing sponsors, he thought of several large churches in Illinois that might help.

"Then I realized that if we really care, we can ourselves, even though our new chapel has only six families, and we rent the Hoffman Estate High School for a meeting place," Clark said after he read an article in the Illinois Baptist.

The very next day, he drove to Braidwood, Ill., and talked with the Ngo Kim Thanh family, a Vietnamese family already resettled by the Main Street Baptist Church there.

"They just stood in the door with grins all over their faces, when I told them we would help bring their relatives to the States," Clark said.

And just four days later it was official. The Grace Community Chapel voted to sponsor 20 relatives of this family, still stranded in refugee camps in Malaysia.

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Clark hopes that these 20 are not among the 2,500 Vietnamese men, women, and children recently left adrift aboard five overcrowded wooden boats in the South China sea. They were towed out to sea by Malaysian officials.

Former staff coordinator at First Baptist Church in West Frankfort, Ill., Clark moved to the Schaumburg area last August as a church planter. "I came here with no nucleus, but started with home Bible studies, and just this summer began Sunday services," he said. The new work is sponsored by the First Baptist Church at Palatine, Ill.

Asked if his small congregation, which numbers only 30 persons, could use help in resettling 20 refugees, his answer was--as you would expect--"Yes."

Jeff Clark's address is 1331 N. Ridge, Arlington Heights 60004.

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'One-Tree' Sunday School  
Divides--Now It's 2 Trees

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NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)--Two young Kenyan Baptists, whose Sunday School consisted on one class meeting under a tree, quickly applied the principles they learned at a recent weekend Sunday School clinic.

After being taught the value of age-group division and the use of available space, the two went back to Karura, a preaching point of Kariobangi Baptist Church in Nairobi. Southern Baptist Missionary Charles E. Evans of Georgia, one of four teachers at the clinic, arrived at Karura that Sunday to find the regular Sunday School teacher holding class under the tree.

But the choir director was conducting a second class--under another tree.

Both were also using pictures and a small chalkboard to illustrate their lessons.

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House OK's Labor-HEW Bill  
With Abortion Restrictions

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives beat back efforts to liberalize its two-year-old restrictions on federally-funded abortions and then passed a \$73.5 billion authorization bill for the departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare (HEW).

In adopting language forbidding the use of federal funds for abortions "except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term," the House invited yet another in an ongoing series of debates with the U. S. Senate over the obligation of the government to help needy women pay for abortions.

The House bill also includes an anti-busing prohibition saying that none of the appropriated funds may be used to transport students or teachers for the purpose of overcoming racial imbalance as part of a plan to desegregate school systems.

Another provision of the bill earmarks \$4 million for the treatment of children victimized by sexual abuse and for training specialists to deal with the growing problem.

The Senate has consistently refused to go along with the restrictive House position on abortion, resulting in drawn-out arguments among conferees appointed by both bodies to resolve differences.

The House, on a voice vote, rejected an amendment proposed by Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, to delete the anti-abortion section. A second move, to amend the bill to leave anti-abortion language as it is written in current law, lost on a roll-call vote of 241-180.

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Present law, hammered out between the House and Senate last year, declares that federal funds only may be used for abortions when the life of the mother is endangered by continuation of the pregnancy, when medical evidence indicates that carrying the fetus to term would result in long-term health problems, and in cases of incest or rape, if promptly reported.

Reliable surveys indicate that under those restrictions, the number of abortions paid for by federal funds has decreased dramatically by 99 percent.

The hard line adopted by the House on the matter is attributed largely to the efforts of Rep. Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., author of the section of the bill prohibiting federal dollars for abortions.

The House also agreed to an amendment trimming \$500 million from HEW's share of the bill, a reduction to be achieved by eliminating some of the fraud, abuse, and waste of which the giant department has recently been accused.

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#### CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 6/26/79, entitled "1979 SBC: The Bitter-Sweet Taste Lingers," please change the word "Sinners" to Sincere in the next-to-last graph from the end, making that read "...effect. Sincere and wise teachers..." etc.

Thanks, Baptist Press