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**Martin Resigns Radio-TV
Commission, Evaluates Direction**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Harold E. Martin, chief executive officer and executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, has resigned, effective Sept. 30, to accept a Gannett Foundation graduate journalism professorship at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Charles P. Roden, director of the commission's audience programs division, will be named interim chief administrative officer until the commission's board of trustees elects a new president. Roden, a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been with the Radio and Television Commission for 22 years.

Martin, who became the commission's chief operating officer after Paul M. Stevens was forced by trustees to retire early last February, said he is satisfied with the management reorganization that has taken place under his direction.

As he stepped down after a year at the commission, Martin said management reorganization has resulted in erasure of commission debts, said he had no apologies for unpopular decisions he has had to make, declared that a survey has shown the commission's estimates of television audience have been inflated, and challenged the commission to help the denomination meet its Bold Mission Thurst goals.

Martin resigned officially in a letter, August 20, to commission chairman Fred Isaacs of Cosby, Tenn. It was accepted in a telephone poll of 14 members of the commission's executive committee, Sept. 5. He said he told the commission trustees last February, when Stevens stepped down, that he was not a candidate for the job and that he had "encouraged them to make some kind of decision about a new president by the middle of September because I had other plans."

However, Isaacs said, Martin's name has been listed among search committee possibilities to succeed Stevens as president.

Isaacs said the list of nominees for the position had been narrowed to about 14 and probably could be soon cut to 9 or 10. He said the search committee, which he chairs, may have a candidate as early as February but at least by June when the Southern Baptist Convention meets in St. Louis.

During Martin's reorganization of the internal operation of the commission, several long-time commission employees have been relieved of their duties. Others have had responsibilities changed. Some have taken early retirement and others resigned.

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The changes have brought about criticisms, including a recent charge by TV producer John C. Stevens, son of Paul Stevens, who resigned Sept. 6 to start his own company. Stevens told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that commission leaders have wielded a meat axe and had no sense of direction.

Criticism has also included an anonymous letter writing campaign to mailing lists of commission contributors, trustees and denominational leaders. The campaign has sought to undercut the commission leadership, including references to Martin as "Ayatollah Martin" and charges that Martin has "purged" the staff.

Martin scoffs at the criticism and denies he has felt any pressure from it. Noting that he has grown used to that sort of thing in his career, the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist said, "My background has been in reorganization (as a publisher and executive of a company managing newspaper and broadcast properties). I am satisfied with what has taken place. I came here knowing I would have to make some hard, unpopular decisions."

He said he has been impressed with denominational leaders he has dealt with but added: "I have said many times I don't like the politics in the denomination, but I like the democracy. I will take the politics to keep the democracy."

He said previous estimates of audience numbers for various commission TV programs were inflated and did not reflect a true number of viewers.

For the first time last year, he said, audience penetration by commission television programs was accurately determined by Arbitron, a national rating service used by broadcasters. Arbitron figures showed that commission-produced programs are seen by a low of 28,500 households and a high of 160,000. The maximum estimated audience is about half a million.

"Back in February, we learned we had no television ministry. That came as a shock to people who had been told they had \$18 million worth of free air time," Martin said. "I am convinced that the average Baptist church member does not identify with the Radio and Television Commission because few of these people have ever seen one of our programs. We must get the message across to the people in the churches."

Martin said the potential for reaching people through broadcasting is "so tremendous it's frightening. But it must be done right. You can't keep pouring money into something that's not working."

He advocated a more intimate relationship between the commission and local churches. "When we get the formula to connect people in the church to the Radio and Television Commission, they'll support it. But we must be good stewards."

"I'm not a pessimist about this commission," he concluded. "I fully believe if the denomination is going to make real its Bold Mission Thrust goals of reaching the world by 2000, we must work out a way of reaching the people with the message of Christ and referring them to individual churches for followup."

Isaacs praised Martin for the "exceptional results and the astute financial management he has produced as chief executive under most trying times." He said trustees felt Roden is "a man who can lead the staff, who has also earned their respect, and who will continue to build morale until the trustees finally select a permanent president."

Roden told commission staff members, "I am under no illusions regarding my position in this interim time. I hope you will look on me as someone to work with, and then I hope we can move along on a stable basis."

Roden indicated he expects the commission to continue "under the same present guidelines in terms of management and policy. We still, obviously, are in a very serious condition," he said.

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Worship a God-given Right,
Says Kenyan Vice President

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LIMURU, Kenya (BP)--Freedom of worship is not a gift of politicians but a God-given right of all people, Kenyan Vice President Mwai Kibaki told the Baptist Convention of Kenya at its annual meeting.

Filling in for the scheduled speaker, President Daniel arap Moi at the convention's Sunday worship service, Kibaki said countries which have given themselves absolute powers without recognizing God as supreme have unleashed a lot of suffering on their people.

He urged the group meeting at Brackenhurst Baptist Assembly in Limuru not to wait until time of trouble to pray and to remember that there cannot be development of any kind without God's guidance. "God is the foundation of all good things in all countries," he said.

Kibaki filled in for Moi when the president was called out of the country on a state visit to Saudi Arabia, said Laura Lee (Mrs. R. Jay) Stewart, Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Kenya. Moi, who once spoke to the convention as vice president, was originally scheduled to address the convention in April. Plague caused a ban on public meetings in the Kiambu District and postponement of the convention meeting until September.

Convention business centered around a five-year development plan which calls for more intensive cooperation between churches, the convention and the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya. This relationship is already the most advanced in Eastern and Southern Africa, according to Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's administrator for the area.

Cooperation primarily centers around beginning new work in pioneer areas and heightening the impact of youth activities. The plan also calls for self-reliance in the care of pastors, intensified Sunday School development, further support for seminary study and more convention involvement in the selection of qualified students for seminary study.

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**Baptists Overcome Obstacles
To Aid Hurricane Victims**

By Norman Jameson

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Santo Domingo fought blackouts, gasoline shortages, constant rain and post-hurricane confusion to get food and medicine to neglected, crowded refugee centers in the Dominican interior.

Hurricane David twisted the lives and landscapes of the Dominican Republic to bloody, muddy messes August 31, leaving approximately 200,000 homeless.

Santo Domingo mission director Arthur R. Haylock and missionaries Ronald B. Wilson and Ken H. Stephens transported eight members of a 12-person volunteer medical missions team from U.S. Baptist churches to Bani, where refugees huddled in 19 schools and churches waiting for someone to find them and bring them food.

Farther on in Acoa, thousands were starving because bad roads and confusion kept food from them.

Four other of the dozen volunteers were waiting in Santo Domingo for permission to fly to Santiago, where 10,000 suffered in similar circumstances.

The eight who went to work in Bani found thousands of refugees packed into 19 centers in that city of 48,000. The refugees, who lost everything but a few tin pots and an occasional mattress to the vicious hurricane, crowded into schools and churches where there was no water, light, food, medicine, sanitation or control.

Concentrating on the largest center first, Harold E. Hurst, associate to the Foreign Mission Board's medical consultant, and William R. Parmer, Valley Mills, Texas, medical technician, passed out food purchased by the Santo Domingo Mission earlier with funds from the board. About 3,500 crowded into this one center.

People slept wherever they found space. Commodes in the restrooms were ripped out and people used those stalls for living area. Hurst told the refugees in each room that the food, enough to feed a family three or four days, was a gift from groups of Christians in the United States called Baptists. Then he told them the most important thing was the Scripture portion included with each ration, because it would last a lifetime.

Dr. James Orlowski of Cleveland, Ohio, followed by several medical students from Santo Domingo, passed through every teeming room, dispensing antibiotics and anti-diarrhea medicine, spreading fungicides over skin lesions and occasionally suturing bad wounds.

Drs. Dewey Dunn of Nashville, Tenn., and Merrill A. Winchester of Stearns, Ky., were taken by civil defense workers into outlying refugee posts to do the same thing.

Richard Appling of Lake Jackson, Texas; Trudy Nelson of Little Rock, Ark.; and W. Roland McArthur of Panama City, Fla., worked in the hospital in Bani. But since it closed at 1:30 p.m., Sept. 10, they planned to make similar rounds during the rest of their anticipated two-week stay.

Orlowski said he treated the predominant pneumonia and diarrhea with large single doses, hoping they and the food would stabilize patients enough for recovery. "To treat them adequately would take seven to 10 days," he said.

The refugees are dependent on the rain. Without it they would die of thirst. After a dry morning it poured heavily in the afternoon and everyone ran for buckets and plastic dishes to catch the rainwater running off the roof. Rain turns the living area into a swampy mess and contributes to pneumonia and disease by forcing everyone inside. But without it, people could not survive.

Gasoline has become the limiting factor in what the Santo Domingo missionaries can do with the 15 tons of beans and rice purchased. About seven tons sat in the Baptist Building while the five vehicles had only a quarter tank among them.

The nation's only refinery was out of production from Aug. 31 until Sept. 11 and demand is three times greater than supply. Six-hour waits are common at the few stations that have any reserves remaining. A tanker of crude oil from the United States spent several days stuck on a sandbar.

The nation's largest newspaper, *Listin Diario*, in Santo Domingo, reported Sept. 11 that the army is beginning an investigation into the sale of donated foods from other countries. U.S. Army C-rations have appeared for sale on the streets of Santo Domingo.

The secretary of education denounced the flood of refugees into Santo Domingo where their occupancy kept schools from opening. But the decimated back country has virtually no food and refugees are forced to stream into the city. Many of them are staying in the gymnasium, site of the 1974 Pan American Games.

In the Bani camp, food was put directly into the hands of the refugees. When the team left one room an old man, joy creasing his weathered face, burst into applause.

"Viva America," he said. "Viva America."

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Norman Jameson, feature editor in the national office of Baptist Press, Nashville, Tenn., is on assignment for the Richmond (Va.) Bureau of BP, covering hurricane damage in the Caribbean.