



BAPTIST PRESS

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September 12, 1979

79-153

Storm Victims, Starving Refugees
Bring Plea for Relief Donations

By Robert L. Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Faced with major relief needs on two sides of the world, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has voted \$70,000 to help feed refugees fleeing oppression in Cambodia and approved funds released earlier on an emergency basis for Caribbean hurricane victims.

The board had to scrape the bottom of its general relief fund barrel to find \$35,000 to buy medical supplies, blankets and other non-food items needed immediately by the thousands of people left homeless by Hurricane David.

Almost no general relief money is left to help more than 60,000 Cambodian refugees huddled without shelter or food along the Thailand border. The \$70,000 voted from hunger relief funds will provide food for these refugees, but other funds are needed to provide tents, medicine, or nets to protect against the swarming mosquitoes.

Overseas Division Director Winston Crawley expressed the hope at the board's September meeting that Southern Baptists, when informed of the critical need for general relief funds, would respond as they did following Hurricane Fifi in Honduras in 1974 and the earthquake devastation in Guatemala in 1976.

Church members gave almost \$100,000 for the 1974 hurricane victims and more than \$600,000 to assist those left homeless by the Guatemala quake.

Area Secretary William R. Wakefield, in an urgent telephone request from Bangkok, Thailand, estimated that between 60,000 and 70,000 Cambodian refugees have been living along the Thai border for weeks, hoping for entrance into the neighboring country.

He said the Thai government has indicated it will admit these refugees if volunteer agencies will agree to feed them. "We are talking about people who have forgotten what shelter is--men, women and children who are starving," Wakefield said.

The number of refugees already at the campsites where missionaries are assisting has almost doubled in recent months, and press statements point to a softening of Thailand's official stand of turning back Cambodian refugees.

Supply planes now are being allowed to refuel in Bangkok en route to Cambodia, Wakefield said, and the Thai prime minister has been quoted in the Bangkok press as saying a "humanitarian" approach must be taken toward the thousands waiting along the border.

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If the people are admitted, Wakefield said, the government probably will take them to existing camps if there is room. Otherwise, they would be in open staging areas, which would make it all the more urgent to provide tents or some type of shelter, he explained.

The Foreign Mission Board also received reports on progress of relief efforts in the Caribbean, where Hurricane David devastated the tiny island of Dominica and took a heavy toll in both lives and property on the Dominican Republic. Martinique received a glancing blow from the storm.

W. Eugene Grubbs, consultant for laymen overseas and relief ministries, said the U.S. State Department informed him Southern Baptists were the first on the scene with relief for Dominica. John R. Cheyne, associate consultant for relief ministries, accompanied the first U.S. teams into Dominica and personally conveyed \$10,000 in Southern Baptist funds and \$5,000 in Baptist World Alliance aid to begin relief work there.

A total of \$90,000 in relief and hunger funds has been appropriated for relief ministries on the two islands.

Area Secretary Charles W. Bryan expressed gratitude to God for the safety of all 35 Southern Baptist missionaries and personnel who were on the three islands hardest hit by the hurricane. He praised the relief and medical efforts as "one of the finest responses we've been able to make to a disaster of this magnitude."

Bryan noted that Grubbs and his associate consultant for laymen overseas, James W. Cecil, and their staff maintained watch during the long Labor Day holiday weekend to obtain information and coordinate volunteer planning.

Harold Hurst, associate to the board's medical consultant, rounded up medical supplies and accompanied an 11-member medical team to begin aiding victims on the Dominican Republic.

The first of two four-man work crews has left for Dominica to assist in rebuilding. Missionary Philip R. Overton of Barbados took supplies to assist in replacing roofs on the missionary homes heavily damaged by the hurricane.

In other actions, the board authorized its president to appoint a 10-member committee to assist its new executive director-elect, applauded selection of Leland Webb as editor-designate of The Commission, the board's monthly magazine, and approved transfer of missionaries to open work in two new areas.

R. Keith Parks, elected in August to succeed Baker J. Cauthen as executive director, asked for the committee to serve as a "sounding board" or forum for discussion ideas on future directions he is considering for the board. He will succeed Cauthen, Jan. 1, 1979.

President John W. Patterson was expected to appoint the group in time for a session with Parks during the board's annual meeting in October. The board also asked Patterson to choose a second group to plan an official inauguration ceremony for Parks as part of the January board meeting.

Webb's selection to succeed Floyd H. North, who will retire Jan. 31 as editor of The Commission, was announced by Thomas W. Hill, secretary of the communications department. Webb has been on the magazine staff for 15 years and has been managing editor since 1970.

Board members approved transfer of two couples, Mr. and Mrs. H. Eugene Meacham and Mr. and Mrs. Dudley A. Phifer, all from Texas, from Malawi to Transkei. Transkei is a tribal homeland granted independence from South Africa in 1976. This action, effective Oct. 1, makes Transkei the 95th country or territory where Southern Baptists have missionaries.

Southern Baptists entered Bophuthatswana, another of the 10 tribal homelands in South Africa, in 1977.

Work will start Jan. 1 in the Sudan, Africa's largest country, which is bordered by Egypt and by Ethiopia on the Southeast. Recent visits convinced field representative James E. Hampton and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald R. Bodenhamer, a Kenya missionary couple, that the Bodenhamers should begin work in the southern portion where a majority of the black population are animists.

The Bodenhamers' transfer, effective Jan. 1, would make the Sudan the 96th Southern Baptist mission field if no other new areas are entered late in 1979.

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Leland Webb Named Editor
Of Foreign Missions Publication

Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Leland F. Webb, 15-year veteran of The Commission magazine staff, has been named editor-designate of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's monthly publication.

Webb, managing editor since 1970, will assume full editorship Feb. 1, 1980, following the retirement of long-time editor Floyd H. North, according to Thomas W. Hill, communications department secretary. North, 65, came to the board in 1957 and has edited the publication for the last 20 years.

Webb, 47, said The Commission will "continue to try to serve the audiences we have with greater currency, dealing with subjects of current interest."

The magazine's goal, he noted, is for each issue to contain something of interest for every reader, aiming at a variety of topics. He said he's "beginning to anticipate some of the pressure and responsibility to make the magazine accurately reflect what we're doing in missions and to reflect the direction of the board's new administration."

A native of McAlester, Okla., Webb is a 1954 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. In 1957, he received the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Before joining The Commission staff as production editor in 1964, he was assistant editor of the Baptist Messenger, weekly paper of Oklahoma Baptists, and editorial assistant for All-Church Press in Fort Worth.

Since 1971, Webb has traveled in more than 30 countries to secure stories and photos about Southern Baptist mission work. He is the author of "How In This World?," the 1974 Foreign Mission Graded Series study book.

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North is from Oklahoma City. He is also a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and received the master of theology degree from Southwestern Seminary. In 1957, he was awarded the honorary doctor of laws degree from Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., where he was registrar and a dean before coming to the board. He has also been pastor of churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri. For five years, he was Baptist student secretary for colleges and universities in Nashville.

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(BP) photo to be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.

Home Mission Board Elects Evangelism Consultants

ATLANTA (BP)--Two consultants who will serve in specialized evangelism were named by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during their September meeting.

Ron Johnson of Nashville, Tenn., was elected to the newly created post of national evangelism consultant with young families.

J. E. Ellis of Orlando, Fla., was approved to become national evangelism consultant with blacks.

Johnson, a native of Newnan, Ga., has been editor and consultant with the church training department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. He was elected to missionary status with the Home Mission Board.

Ellis, who has been a home missionary since 1977, has been regional missionary with the Home Mission Board's department of cooperative ministries with National Baptists, serving the East Central Florida area.

Johnson and Ellis are part of an expansion of use of consultants by the evangelism section at the board. They join three other persons who are consultants in areas of specialized evangelism--Herman Rios, ethnics; Dave Bennett, youth; and Laura Fry, women.

"We have expanded our use of evangelism consultants to serve as resource persons to conventions, associations and local churches and to be specialists in key areas of evangelism concern," said C. B. Hogue, director of the board's evangelism section.

Frank Crumpler, director of the department of specialized evangelism, said the consultants will "represent all of the programs of the evangelism section on the field as well as be resource persons in the special areas. They have a 'double-barreled' responsibility."

In addition, the consultants will work with other program areas at the board as resource persons, Crumpler added.

"We are particularly glad to have Ron Johnson as our consultant on evangelism with young families. We have been interested in adding strength in the area of evangelism with children. He will concentrate his attention on winning children and on conserving them as they grow. This has been a problem area and we hope we can provide some resources to solving it," Crumpler said.

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Hogue added that plans currently are to add two more consultants in specialized evangelism areas. "We hope to add a consultant who will work with singles. Statistics tell us that by 1981, some 51 million persons in the United States will be single adults. We also hope to add a person to work with aged people. These are two expanding groups which we feel we must focus attention on."

Johnson, 29, is a graduate of West Georgia College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was employed by the Sunday School Board in 1974, following graduation from seminary.

Previously, he was pastor in Chaplin, Ky., and a chaplain in Shively, Ky. He also has been feature and sports editor of a newspaper in Carrollton, Ga.

Ellis, 46, a native of Whiteville, N.C., is a graduate of Shaw University and Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, N.C. Prior to appointment as a missionary in 1977, he was pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando for six years.

He also has served as pastor of churches in Wilson, Hendersonville, Williamston and Wagram, N.C., and youth pastor of a church in Chadborn, N.C.

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Rutledge Celebrates 'Home
Coming' At Home Board

Baptist Press
9/12/79

ATLANTA (BP)--David Rutledge, son of the late Arthur B. Rutledge, was elected to the staff of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during the September director's meeting.

Rutledge, 38, who has been living in Brownwood, Texas, will become director of mission property services for the board.

He first came to the board in 1959 when his late father was elected to become director of missions for the board. The elder Rutledge served as the board's executive secretary-treasurer, 1965-76.

"It's really a homecoming for me," he said. "When Dad came to the board in 1959, I was in high school. But, what pleases me most is being of service. I'm very happy to get back to being directly involved in Christian work."

For the past two years, Rutledge has been in the insurance business in Brownwood while his wife, Carolyn, has finished her college degree at Howard Payne University. She is a first grade teacher in Brownwood.

Arthur Rutledge, who died in 1977, was director of missions for the board until his election as executive secretary-treasurer. He retired Dec. 31, 1976, and was succeeded by the current executive director-treasurer, William G. Tanner.

"During his (Arthur Rutledge's) years at the board, we (his family) were not directly involved in home missions, except for going on occasional trips," the younger Rutledge said. "Of course, we got a good bit about home missions 'second handed' from him."

In his new responsibility, Rutledge succeeds Dewey Barlow, who took early retirement.

Rutledge, a native of Dallas, Texas, attended Stetson University and Baylor University before graduating from Florida State University with a bachelor of music degree. He received his doctor of jurisprudence degree from Mercer University Law School in 1969.

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He practiced law in LaGrange and Newnan, Ga., before moving to Brownwood. He also has served as a part time youth and music minister in Macon and LaGrange, Ga.

"I am excited about coming to the Home Mission Board," Rutledge said. "I have felt sort of out-of-pocket for the past several years."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta Bureau of Baptist Press.

R-TV Commission
Names Pillow to Post

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Jerome B. (Jerry) Pillow has been named to manage the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's audience systems and services.

Pillow, assistant marketing manager for the commission, will hold the position during the period that Charles Roden, who headed audience systems and services, acts as interim chief administrative officer of the commission.

Roden will assume the interim position, Oct. 1, following the resignation of Harold Martin, executive vice president and chief administrative officer. Martin will assume a Gannett Foundation graduate journalism professorship at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Roden is a 22-year employee of the commission; Pillow, a 23-year employee.

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(BP) photos of Roden and Pillow mailed separately to state Baptist editors by the Radio and Television Commission.

Dallas Baptist College
Allowed to Borrow Funds

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
9/12/79

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptists' executive board gave Dallas Baptist College and its new president, W. Marvin Watson, a vote of confidence by approving a proposal for the financially-troubled school to borrow \$2.5 million.

Further accenting its support of Dallas Baptist College, the board also approved a two-year fund raising campaign seeking \$5 million for endowment from members of Baptist churches in a six-county area of north Texas.

The board debated the Dallas Baptist College loan proposal for about an hour before voting its approval decisively.

Watson, a former United States postmaster general, told the board that the college has exceeded last year's enrollment and he hopes it will have more than 1,000 students before enrollment closes.

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Under his administration, Watson said, Dallas Baptist College will remain a liberal arts college but that "the requirements of Bible study will double."

Kenneth Chafin, pastor of the South Main Baptist Church, Houston, told the board in introducing Watson that he wondered "why a man of this stature would consider the presidency of such a financially troubled institution. Chafin concluded that Watson must be "a man called of God."

"I don't need the hassle, but I think God put me there," replied Watson, who had delayed accepting the presidency until trustees and friends agreed to lend the school funds to show support. He agreed to lend \$250,000 of his own money.

Among board members opposing the loan, Daniel Vestal, pastor of First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas, said it is "an issue that has drained the energy and spirit of Texas Baptists too long..."

But Gerald Mann, pastor of River Bend Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, said he had come prepared to vote against the loan proposal and had changed his mind. "Let's give these people a chance," he said.

Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said he had participated in the struggle to save the school since the early 1970's.

Allen, a former president of Texas Baptists, said he believes "the uniqueness" that will come with Watson's leadership will provide the momentum needed to put the college on sound financial footing.

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Christian Life Commission
Honors James M. Dunn

Baptist Press
9/12/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--James M. Dunn of Dallas was awarded the 1979 Distinguished Service Award by the Christian Life Commission, the national social ethics agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dunn, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission since 1968, was recognized during the SBC Christian Life Commission's annual meeting for his "unique and outstanding contributions in applied Christianity." Foy D. Valentine, executive secretary, praised Dunn as a "tireless practitioner of Christian ethics; courageous champion of applied Christianity; faithful exemplar of a Christian lifestyle; and consistent follower of the prophetic calling."

An activist with impressive records in such areas as world hunger, aging, religious liberty and family life, Dunn is the 12th recipient of the national award established in 1965.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Dunn earned a doctor of philosophy degree in Christian ethics from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has done additional graduate study at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

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