



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 27, 1979

79-161

Church Exchange Program Nets  
Believers, Mission Commitment

By Anita Bowden

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--Two Baptist churches--one in Japan, one in Alabama--recently combined efforts in an exchange program which brought 27 decisions for Christ, two dedications to full-time Christian service and four commitments to foreign mission service.

The pastor and 20 laymen of Shinkoiwa Baptist Church, Tokyo, Japan, spent seven days at Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., observing programs and visiting members and neighbors of the church. In April, the pastor and four laymen from Cottage Hill Church witnessed and led services at the Shinkoiwa church.

This exchange, brainchild of Southern Baptist missionary Gerald W. Burch, was to allow each nationality to learn more about the other country, its Christians and the problems and challenges they face and to give them opportunities to share their faith.

Both parts of the exchange were successful, according to Burch and Cottage Hill's pastor Fred H. Wolfe.

Shinkoiwa's pastor, Masao Kawaguchi, explained why his group had come to Mobile: "When I came to your country the last time I had only two eyes to see what great potential a church can have. This time I've brought 42 eyes."

During Friday and Saturday evening home meetings where church members invited friends and neighbors to hear testimonies by the Japanese, three foreign exchange students from Japan accepted Christ as their Savior.

Later in the week, two couples from Cottage Hill said they felt God leading them to foreign mission work in Japan. Burch says he thinks more Cottage Hill members will be making missions commitments in coming months.

Two young men in the Japanese group said they were feeling led to become education directors. There are no trained, full-time education directors in Japanese Baptist churches, according to Burch.

While Wolfe and four laymen from Cottage Hill were in Tokyo, the Shinkoiwa church registered 22 professions of faith, one decision for full-time Christian service, and many rededications of life, Burch said. In one family, a Christian young man's mother and sister accepted Christ during revival services and his father made the same decision a few weeks later.

Burch, in the states for furlough, hopes to involve more Japanese and American churches in future exchange programs.

## BJCA Urges Exclusion of Churches from Lobby Bill

WASHINGTON (BP)--Exclusion of churches from lobby disclosure legislation pending before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee was the major thrust of testimony presented by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Baptist statement charged that S. 1564, introduced by Sen. Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., would unconstitutionally inhibit the free exercise of religion and entangle government and churches by "imposing time-consuming and expensive record keeping and reporting on churches in carrying out their religious mission."

The statement said many religious groups consider it an integral part of their mission to speak to government to try to influence the development of public policy.

Barry W. Lynn, legislative counsel for the office for Church in Society of the United Church of Christ, also testified against the legislation. "The Congress takes a great risk if it acts in a way which may stifle any legitimate advocacy work. . . . gaining access to the political system has been very difficult for many groups. I ask you not to put any new and unnecessary obstacles in our paths," Lynn said.

Similar legislation in the House of Representatives is pending in the Judiciary Committee. In the last Congress, the House passed a lobby disclosure bill but the Senate refused to move it out of committee.

In its annual meeting in 1978, the Southern Baptist Convention went on record as opposing lobby disclosure legislation which would impose "tighter governmental control over churches and not-for-profit groups."

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## Haiti Joins Countries Receiving Baptist Relief

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Haiti has been added to the list of Caribbean countries receiving Southern Baptist relief help from devastation by Hurricane David.

The Foreign Mission Board released \$5,000 for hunger relief in Haiti, which received severe crop damage. The emergency funds will be used to assist in replanting those crops.

Another \$20,000 also was authorized for emergency hunger relief in Dominica. Southern Baptist missionaries have been working with relief efforts on that island since the late August disaster which stripped the country of its resources, but have run out of food to distribute. The new allocation will go toward the purchase and delivery of food so the missionaries can continue their work in the town of Boetica.

The two new allocations bring to \$135,000 the total amount of Southern Baptist relief money for use in the Dominican Republic, Dominica and Haiti.

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Baptist Help in Nicaragua  
Significant, Survey Shows

By Jennifer Anderson

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)--Southern Baptists have made a "significant contribution" toward rehabilitation in Nicaragua, but their largest undertaking is yet to come, says an official of the denomination's Foreign Mission Board.

Following a four-day survey of the strife-torn country, John R. Cheyne, associate consultant for relief ministries, said the emergency allocation in June of \$20,000 for hunger relief made a valuable contribution.

But, he noted, the "major undertaking of Southern Baptists" will be a \$30,000 allotment to be recommended at the October board meeting to help set up employment programs.

"Unemployment is the most serious problem in the country right now," said Cheyne. He emphasized, however, that the "country has made a fantastic beginning in recovery efforts" since open conflict ended.

For more than a year Nicaragua was torn by internal conflict between national guard forces of President Anastasio Somoza Jr. and the Sandinista National Liberation Front, which took control in July after Somoza fled the country.

Cheyne said, "One of the best organized relief programs I've seen" is being formed. He commended the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua for its community development program through which Southern Baptist missionaries in Nicaragua have been working.

"What Southern Baptists have done may have contributed more to Nicaragua than anything they've ever done before," said Stanley D. Stamps, veteran missionary to Nicaragua. Stamps, along with others, left the country in June when civil strife escalated. He has returned to resume his job in literature ministry and give assistance in rebuilding efforts. He said his literature ministry is building up rapidly again.

The \$20,000 allocation has brought food to 2,500 people, provided 150 families with loans of up to \$500 for housing repair, and helped people replace household goods, purchase medicines, restart small businesses and receive basic food subsidy during unemployment, Cheyne said.

He noted the major portion of assistance to the national convention has come from the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., Inc., the Baptist World Alliance, Mexican Baptists and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"A spirit of almost jubilation" exists among the people, added Cheyne. But he said there's still a desperate need for medicine in the country. The new government is "giving every appearance of taking a middle-of-the-road stance (and) welcomes assistance of groups from North America, like Southern Baptists," he added.

Cheyne visited six of the country's major cities and said up to 50 percent of the property in each city has been destroyed, affecting both industry and local commerce severely. "But," he said, "things are coming back rapidly."

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist editors by Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press.



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Forces of Evil, Despair Prevail  
Though Man's Witness Continues

By Jennifer Hall Anderson

ZUNIL, Guatemala (BP)--The sun doesn't linger at dusk over this Quiche Indian village. sunk in a bowl of mountains, it drops and vanishes behind a volcano.

And although Zunil is veiled in darkness, fires from the multitude of adobe homes terraced along the valley floor create a certain glow as seen from the road above.

Barefoot women, carrying babies on their backs and balancing baskets of food on their heads, chatter softly as they walk the dirt paths home. Then a knife of darkness slashes the quaint picture.

Overpowered by blackness, three crude wooden chairs sit in a row, backed by a cross made of tree limbs. Everything is black with soot. The area is shared by a roof held on poles. It, too, is black. Smoke rises from a pile of ashes--all that's left from a sacrifice burned by witch doctors.

The scene reeks of ceaseless despair as eyes follow a worn path to one house. It's a special place--it houses San Simon, the village idol. The idol, made of wood, carved with life-size head, body and limbs, is treated as if it were human. Because it's night, the idol is in bed, covered with richly-woven handmade blankets. Candles flicker in the dank room. Whiskey bottles line the sides like wallpaper.

The woman watching over the idol warns against "waking him up." She and the other villagers worship San Simon. They lavish "him" with cigarettes, liquor and fine clothing. But out of each pack of cigarettes, San Simon only gets one; and just a small portion of a quart bottle of liquor is poured down the idol's wooden throat. Those who guard San Simon get the rest.

Zunil is no longer serene; it's eerie. But to Narciso Poz and George Hardeman it's a challenge for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Poz, a Guatemalan, and Hardeman, a Southern Baptist missionary from Greenville, S.C., believe that villagers, deceived by idol worship, need help. They began with a door-to-door survey of those interested in a Bible study. "We went to every house in the village," Hardeman said with a sweeping gesture. "Every house. Not one person was interested. They said 'no' --politely--but 'no.'"

Poz, a believer for several years who quit his job to enter seminary and prepare for the pastorate, is determined to see Zunil on the road to Christianity.

Discouragement overwhelmed him when he began in Zunil. "One of the first people I talked to was the mayor. He told me to get out of town. I told him, 'Jesus loves you.'"

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Poz left Zunil for seminary. Now, two years later, he's back working weekends in the village and things have changed. "People are friendlier," he says. "Some still close their doors on me, but I feel they're more receptive."

He feels no bitterness, only compassion. He says, "I know they need to know Jesus. My basic drive is the Holy Spirit pushing me to Zunil. Now it's my responsibility to preach the Word."

He feels no fear. "I know there may come a day when those who control the idol worshippers might harm me--they might stone me--but I'm going to preach the Word."

As he reflected on his "calling" to that village, Poz proclaimed he's "almost 100 percent sure that someday there's going to be a work in Zunil."

Sitting at his friend's side, Hardeman expressed gratitude for Narciso Poz and his strength: "He has a long road ahead of him. Pray for him; it's rough work."

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Golden Gate Seminary Adds  
Faculty Members, Alaska Program

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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has added nine persons to the faculty for the fall semester and announced establishment of a continuing education program in Anchorage, Alaska.

Joining the instructional staff as visiting professors are: J. P. Allen, retired director of audience response for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and former pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, as professor of preaching; Bob D. Compton, missionary to Costa Rica, as professor of church history; and H. Cornell Goerner, retired secretary to West Africa as professor of missions.

The seminary will send Allen to Anchorage to teach the Gospel of John and preaching in a contemporary setting in October during morning and evening classes to pastors, church staff workers and lay leaders.

Joining the church music division faculty as instructors on the seminary's Mill Valley, Calif., campus are: Carol Caywood, choral and instrumental instructor; Marion Evans, vocalist and graduate of Golden Gate; Boyd Jarrell, operatic baritone and featured soloist with the Grace Cathedral Choir in San Francisco; and Mike McKnight, pianist and graduate of the University of Tennessee.

Teaching English will be Martha Saul, who recently had her first book published, and Joanne Stubblefield, who has taught English and French on the secondary level for a number of years.

J. Alfred Smith, pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, Calif., will serve as resource person for the doctor of ministry seminar on "Worship and Proclamation."

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