



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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79-170

### Hurricane Victims, Refugees Receive Largest Appropriations

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Victims of devastating Hurricane David and the Vietnamese Boat People received the largest shares of relief funds during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond.

The board appropriated \$133,500 in hunger and general relief funds and reallocated an additional \$50,000 during its October meeting. October appropriations brought the 1979 total to just over \$2,251,000.

The \$50,000 reallocation was the largest single sum of money voted on by the board for relief. It was earmarked for use among the Boat People being processed through the Philippines. The money had previously been designated for Vietnamese refugees to be housed at the Luzon Baptist Conference grounds but arrangements could not be worked out at the 15-acre Baptist camp located near the entrance of Manila Bay.

The money will now be used for vocational and educational programs among the Tung An refugees so they can become employed. The Tung An and its 2,000 refugees had been anchored in Manila Bay for eight months until August when the displaced persons were allowed to move to Tara Island, about 150 miles southwest of Manila.

The board appropriated an additional \$5,000 in general relief funds for work among refugees in Hong Kong.

The second largest block of funds, \$45,000 for work in Haiti and Dominica, was designated for victims of Hurricane David. This appropriation has a ratification of emergency funds already released by the board. Of that amount, \$5,000 was used to replant crops destroyed by the storm. The balance was divided equally between rebuilding and feeding programs in Boetica, a village for which Southern Baptists have assumed responsibility. Fifteen members of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, have participated in some of the rebuilding effort. The feeding program will provide food to supplement the diets of 300 families for 16 weeks.

An appropriation for an irrigation project in North Brazil is being underwritten by the Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. Approximately 100 acres of land will be used to grow beans which 600 poor families will then use to plant their own crops and produce cash income.

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Other appropriations included \$30,000 for work in Nicaragua, where much of the nation's industry was destroyed by civil war, and \$15,500 for an animal breeding stock project at the Rural Life Center in Mindanao, Philippines.

Gifts to the hunger fund during September, amounting to \$535,725, more than doubled the existing hunger fund account. This is probably a direct result of funds coming in from Southern Baptists' World Hunger Day in August, said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's consultant for laymen overseas and relief ministries. General relief funds received \$60,703 during the same time.

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3,000 New Sunday Schools  
Begun in Three Years

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
10/10/79

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A Southern Baptist Convention goal of starting 3,000 new Sunday Schools in three years was surpassed Sept. 30, more than tripling the 909 started in the previous three years.

The final total for the 1976-79 emphasis was 3,013--the vast majority started by churches as mission efforts pointed toward development of new churches.

During the first year, 1976-77, 566 Sunday Schools were started. The second year, 1,174 were begun and the total for the final year was 1,273.

The totals were compiled in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department from new start reports from state conventions and churches and from requests for free literature which the board provides to new Sunday Schools. Reports were cross-checked to avoid duplication, according to James Lackey, new starts growth consultant.

The goal in starting the vast majority of new Sunday Schools is that they ultimately become churches, Lackey said. For example, a Sunday School started by First Baptist Church, Gallatin, Tenn., in March 1977, was constituted as a church one year later. However, he said, Sunday Schools started in locations such as homes for the elderly may remain mission Sunday Schools on a long term basis.

Texas led all state Baptist conventions with 465 new starts. The next 10 in order are Ohio, 193; Florida, 159; California, 142; Georgia, 123; Northwest, 111; Northern Plains, 111; Michigan, 108; Missouri, 104; Arizona, 103; Illinois, 101.

Building of awareness across the convention of the need to start new work was one key to achieving the goal, said Lackey. He said states in newer convention territories were among the first to respond to the challenge of the goal and beef up efforts to start new work.

For example, six state conventions involved in the North Central Missions Thrust growth project--Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Iowa Fellowship and Minnesota-Wisconsin Fellowship--together started 569 Sunday Schools in the three years.

Also, 538 Sunday Schools were started in six western conventions--Arizona, New Mexico, Utah-Idaho, Northwest, Northern Plains and California.

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"What's happening now is that states in more established Baptist territory are getting involved in starting new Sunday Schools," Lackey said. He cited Mississippi, which has established a goal of 80 new Sunday Schools in 1979-80. If achieved, that would top in one year the new starts in that state for the last three years.

On a denominational level, Lackey said, a factor in the increase has been funds the Sunday School Board has provided through states to pay expenses for contract workers to aid in starting new work.

A total of 230 contract workers have been used by 29 state conventions during the three-year period. College and seminary students, pastors and retired persons have made up the majority of the contract workers.

Many methods then have been used to actually start new Sunday Schools. They have included the Sunday School Board's ACTION enrollment plan, mission Vacation Bible Schools and backyard Bible clubs.

Lackey said another important factor in increasing new starts has been increased cooperation between the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board in "declaring ourselves jointly in the effort."

"Beginning new Sunday Schools is one of the most fruitful of all Baptist endeavors," said Sunday School Board president Grady Cothen. "I congratulate our Sunday School department, the state Sunday School directors, the directors of missions and every church that participated."

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Carter, John Paul II  
'Surprised' At Response

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WASHINGTON (BP)--President Carter expressed surprise during his nationally broadcast news conference here Oct. 9 at the extent of Pope John Paul's popularity with the American people.

Asked by a reporter to reflect on the meaning of the pontiff's recent week-long visit, Carter replied that both he and John Paul II were "surprised at the degree of warmth and enthusiasm among American people in welcoming the pope."

He continued, "I expected the welcome to be warm and friendly, but I had no idea that it would be that enthusiastic and would involve that large a number of people--and neither did he."

The president said he is convinced that "there's an innate hunger in our country for moral and ethical and religious principles--things that do not change during a time of rapid change brought on by a technological revolution throughout the world. I believe there's a hunger for things that are decent and honest, for principles of which we can be proud."

Carter went on to observe that for many people the pope "accurately mirrors...those aspirations and hopes."

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The president said that during their 45-minute conference in the oval office Oct. 6, one of the subjects discussed was the opposition of officially atheistic nations to the "inherent desire of people for religious belief."

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She Knows 'Ma-Ma'  
In World's Languages

By Lynn P. Clayton

Baptist Press  
10/10/79

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP)--Some folks might think Susan F. Stanford doesn't know when to quit.

Mrs. Stanford, 85, moved to Baton Rouge four years ago.

"I was a recent widow, lonely, had some minor physical ailments, and felt I had reached the end of the trail," Mrs. Stanford said. "I came to Louisiana so that my daughter could help me."

Her daughter, wife of Hugh Foster, director of the Baptist Seamen's Ministry in Baton Rouge, however, had a way of helping quite different from what Mrs. Stanford expected.

"I didn't know anything about the seamen's ministry when I came here," Mrs. Stanford said. "But one night right after I got here, we went down to the center. They had a house full. My daughter walked by and said, 'Mother, would you put the coffee on? There are some cokes and cookies in there, too. Would you put those out?'"

With that simple request came the beginning of a ministry that Mrs. Stanford sees as "fabulous."

Now Mrs. Stanford is active in two parts of the seamen's ministry. She works at the seamen's center when her home church, Victoria Baptist Church, is responsible for a night at the center.

"I just make and serve coffee and refreshments and clean up the kitchen," Mrs. Stanford said. Then, remembering she was talking with a reporter, she added, "That's nothing to boast about. All the other volunteers do that. All those other old people will say, 'Why, I do that, too.'" But then she added with a twinkle in her eye, "Course, none of the others are as old as I am. . . ."

She also works at the English classes conducted at First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, under the auspices of the seamen's center.

"I do practically the same thing down there. I am also kind of the 'Mother Confessor.' They do have a lot of respect for older people, and the wives are always asking me what they should do, or for some kind of advice. I generally just listen, and then tell them I can't tell them what to do."

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