



-- **FEATURES**  
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Five Human Beings:  
A Refugee Story

MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--War wrestled them from their family and flung them upon a human garbage heap.

They are five human beings, ethnic Chinese refugees assigned to a Malaysian "holding" camp. They are among 10 million people across the globe who share this plight, and they are among more than 3,000 refugees settled in the United States by Southern Baptists in 1979.

Hard-working, self-sufficient and proud, they grew up near Saigon, helping in their parents' small textile mill and going to school when possible.

They made the best of life in war-torn Vietnam, where most of the population detested ethnic Chinese. Life darkened during the Viet Cong reign of terror that followed the war and grew worse when leaders punished Vietnam's Chinese for a 1978 Red Chinese military venture into Indochina.

Brother Hung and sister Anh knew they had to get their family out of the country, but their parents were too old to risk a long, dangerous journey, and four of their eight brothers and sisters were too young.

By agonized mutual consent, they took two sisters and a brother and left Vietnam, promising to send for the others.

They paid dearly for right of passage on an unseaworthy 54-foot boat loaded with 315 other emigrants and ventured into the treacherous South China Sea. Despite leakage, sharks, storms and murderous pirate profiteers, they reached the Malaysian coast four days later.

Seasick, exhausted and famished, they were herded from camp to camp and lived under an open tent shelter, surrounded by 7,000 fellow wanderers.

Thrown from their homeland like rotting garbage out a shanty door, they waited. With no money and no relatives in friendly nations, their prospects for rescue were dim.

Meanwhile, a Southern Baptist church near Miami responded to the crisis of Vietnam's "boat people."

The Brotherhood group at Modello Baptist Church in Leisure City, Fla., voted to sponsor a five-member refugee family who could live in a vacant house at Coral Pines Baptist Camp. They contacted Gene Tunnell, refugee resettlement coordinator for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and gave him the go-ahead for finding a family from one of the Indochinese holding camps.

While Tunnell worked through the selection process, church members remodeled, painted, cleaned and furnished the house. They also stocked cabinets with food and drawers with linen.

They didn't know their new friends--what they looked like or how their voices sounded--but most of Modello's members showed up on the day of arrival to welcome Hung, Anh and their sisters and brother to a new world and a new way of life.

Such a scene was repeated over and over last year as Southern Baptists opened their arms to 3,164 people in 684 family units.

Both figures represent record highs, said Tunnell. The numbers even surpass those of 1975, when refugee camps were located stateside and awareness of the situation hit an all-time high.

He said approximately 75 percent of the resettlement was accomplished in the last six months of the year, after William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board executive director-treasurer, challenged Southern Baptist associations to settle 1,000 families.

Although only 49 associations directly sponsored families, many others "served as forums to get churches together and to bring in sponsors," he said.

But Baptists cannot be content merely to rejoice over the success of 1979, Tunnell said. He estimated some 10 million persons are displaced throughout the world at any one time and noted that the United States can legally receive 250,000 of them per year.

"We have a continual need for sponsors," he said. "And the most helpful approach for churches to take is to make a commitment to sponsor refugees without placing nametags on them.

"Of course, if a church is near a large Cambodian community, we would expect it to request sponsorship of Cambodians. However, we are in dire need of churches that will sponsor refugees of any nationality.

"Because of media coverage, almost everyone is aware of Indochinese refugees, but we also are trying to help refugees from Cuba, Europe and other parts of the world," Tunnell explained.

"Consequently, we must enter the '80s with an awareness of global needs," he said, "and the commitment to help refugees everywhere."

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Glen E. Braswell  
To Undergo Surgery

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DENVER (BP)--Glen E. Braswell, executive director-treasurer of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, will undergo open heart surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital here on Friday, Jan. 18.

Braswell said bypass surgery is necessary for a 90 percent blockage in the main artery across his heart. Recuperation will take about two months.

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New Zealand Baptists  
Report Stronger Laity

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--New Zealand Baptists on a five-week tour of the United States say their churches have greater congregational participation and more lay ministries than they've seen among Southern Baptist congregations.

The 61 visitors--guests of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board--were in America to study, observe Southern Baptist work and to lead Bible studies during January. The 23 ministers in the group are leading January Bible Study sessions in Texarkana, Texas; Knoxville, Tenn., Atlanta, Ga., and Jacksonville, Fla.

"Here we feel the ministry is confined to the professional ministers," said Gerald Marks, minister of Papatoetoe Baptist Church in Papatoetoe, Auckland, New Zealand.

While many Southern Baptist churches have what Marks termed "specialist ministers"--ministers of music, education and other areas of emphasis--New Zealand Baptist churches traditionally have one minister. An increasing number have more than one, but the second minister is not usually a specialist.

New Zealand has 19,000 Baptists in 162 Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist Union of New Zealand. Average church size is 120 members, with the largest churches approaching 600.

"Usually we have more in our congregations than are on the church roll," he said. "We keep our rolls pretty clean.

"One in every 80 to 90 of our members are missionaries, and there is a deep interest and financial involvement in missions, 90 percent of which is directed outside of our denomination."

Approximately one-half of the Baptist churches in New Zealand have all-age Sunday Schools, Marks said, but there is a trend away from adult Sunday School toward home Bible study groups for adults.

"There is a saying that the average New Zealander is not at his best at half past nine on a Sunday morning," he said. "Sunday School has not been an evangelistic agency for us."

Marks said most New Zealand pastors who come to the United States to study and preach say it does something for their confidence.

"Most men's ministries are not the same when they return. To maintain freshness and growth, you have to be fed," he said. "Being here is to be part of something different and part of something new."

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White New Professor  
At Southern Seminary

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Ernest White, pastor of the Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo., will become professor of leadership and administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in July.

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The 50-year-old alumnus of Southern Seminary was pastor of five churches in the 15 years prior to his Wyatt Park ministry where he has been for 17 years. He has been active in associational, state, and Southern Baptist Convention responsibilities.

He holds professional certification in the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

White has written more than 100 articles in denominational publications as well as a book, Marriage and the Bible, published by Broadman Press in 1965.

He received an associate of arts degree from Southwest Baptist College, and a bachelor of arts degree from William Jewell College, the bachelor of divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kan., and the doctor of philosophy degree from Southern Seminary. He has done continuing education studies at Kansas University, Menninger Foundation, and Yale Divinity School.

As an adjunct professor at Midwestern and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminaries since 1973, White helped develop the doctor of ministry programs at both seminaries. A frequent conference leader for family life and church administration conferences, he was for five years pastor advisor to the Metropolitan Missions Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

White will attend the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia during the spring semester before he assumes the teaching position at Southern in July.

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Two \$500,000 Gifts  
To Endow Professorships

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Two persons have each pledged \$500,000 gifts to endow professorships at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

C. F. "Lynn" Barry Jr., a North Carolina radio executive, has pledged that amount to endow a chair of Christian communications, and John W. McCall Jr., a Memphis physician, will endow a professorship of prayer and personal devotion.

The chair of Christian communications, to be established with an estate gift, will be named for Barry's father, Charles Franklynn Barry of Jacksonville, Fla., retired Sunday School secretary for the Florida Baptist Convention. Both Barrys are graduates of Southern Seminary.

The chair of prayer and personal devotion will be established by a memorial gift to honor Dr. McCall's late wife, Ellen Edens McCall, who died last year of cancer. A substantial portion of the funding for the chair will be provided by the sale of property from her estate.

Dr. McCall is a brother of Southern Seminary President Duke K. McCall. Mrs. McCall, a sister of Baptist educator David Edens, was national Mother of the Year in 1977.

The Ellen Edens McCall professorship will focus on individual and corporate prayer as a vital force in the Christian experience. It will train new ministers to help their congregations develop deeper spiritual lives through exposure to the classics of Christian devotion and the discipline of daily prayer and Bible study.

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