



## BAPTIST PRESS

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### Four SBC Agencies Join Forces To Combat World Hunger

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Four Southern Baptist Convention agencies have joined forces to introduce a continuing plan to help the 13.4 million Southern Baptists combat world hunger.

Supported by the Foreign Mission, Home Mission and Sunday School Boards and coordinated by the Christian Life Commission, the plan includes the distribution of 40,000 world hunger packets. One packet will be sent to each Southern Baptist pastor and minister of education and to denominational leaders.

Foy Valentine, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said the packet is designed to help Southern Baptists develop a concerted and unified response to world hunger.

"Southern Baptist response to world hunger has increased dramatically since the 1970s," he said. "Sensitivity to hunger has been growing and our gifts for hunger through the Foreign and Home Mission Boards have substantially increased."

Southern Baptist gifts to world hunger jumped from \$81,000 in 1971 to more than \$3,000,000 in 1979.

"But the hunger crisis has not abated and millions are still suffering from and dying from starvation," Valentine said. "Our progress has been small in the face of the great moral challenge of world hunger."

"We hope the plans outlined in the world hunger packet will help pastors, educational directors, and denominational workers to lead their churches in an aggressive and continuing response to world hunger," he said.

Building on the observance of World Hunger Day, set on the denominational calendar by the SBC for Aug. 6, 1980, the plan offers suggestions for a church-wide prayer service, world hunger sermons, ways to witness through hunger relief, and a seven-point plan of action for individual church members.

David Sapp, director of organization for the Christian Life Commission and coordinator of the world hunger project, said one of the primary reasons many Southern Baptists have not given adequate response to world hunger is the common feeling that one person can do very little about such an enormous problem.

"The problem is not that we do not care," Sapp explained. "It's that we do not accept responsibility. The task of ending hunger often seems to belong to someone else and to be beyond our meager ability," he said.

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"The world hunger kit and the observance of World Hunger Day will provide very specific ways that every Southern Baptist can help to make a difference in the fight against world hunger," Sapp said.

Guidelines designed by the four Southern Baptist Convention agencies call for individuals to respond by praying about hunger, giving through the Foreign and Home Mission Boards to help the hungry, engaging in hunger education activities, exercising responsible Christian citizenship on behalf of the hungry, and becoming involved with hungry persons in the community.

According to Sapp, the plan encourages Southern Baptists to give their gifts to world hunger through their local churches.

"All that a church member needs to do is place the gift in an envelope and write 'hunger' on the outside and drop it in the offering plate," Sapp explained. "The church will then channel that offering through the state convention for hunger relief.

"Offerings may be designated by the individual for the hunger relief fund of either the Foreign Mission Board or the Home Mission Board or a percentage may be given to each," Sapp explained. "If the individual does not specify where the gift is to go, this decision may be made by the church or the state convention," he said.

"Whatever method is used, every penny of the contribution will actually get to the hungry," Sapp stressed.

Although distribution of the world hunger kit is limited to the 40,000 already mailed, the agencies are encouraging churches to reproduce the materials for wider distribution to church members.

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Scots Welcome Barber,  
Honor Andrew MacRae

By Larry and Gayle Jerden

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GLASGOW, Scotland (BP)--In the overflowing sanctuary of Adelaide Place Baptist Church here, Scottish Baptists inducted a veteran pastor as their new leader and bade farewell to the man who was instrumental in bringing an official Southern Baptist presence to Scotland.

In the first half of a two-part program, Peter H. Barber, longtime pastor in Scotland and England, was inducted as the new general secretary. The second half of the Saturday afternoon event was an appreciation service for Andrew MacRae. MacRae is leaving the post after 14 years to become a professor at Acadia Divinity College, Nova Scotia, Canada.

MacRae has in large measure brought the small Scottish Baptist Union to the attention of world Baptists through his involvement in the Baptist World Alliance, the European Baptist Federation, the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and several trips through the U.S.

In an interview in 1974, following visits to SBC agencies and seminaries, MacRae expressed his desire that Southern Baptists aid Scottish Baptists by sending missions personnel to work in union churches.

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At the time of his departure, Southern Baptists had two missionary couples serving churches in Aberdeen, a North Sea oil boom city, and six shorter term missionary journeyman and Mission Service Corps volunteers in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Ayr.

MacRae also introduced SBC "WIN" evangelistic materials to Scotland and England, adapting them for more effective use in the British culture.

Barber, pastor over the past 31 years in Glasgow, Scotland, and in Torquay, a seaside resort town in the south of England, was president of the Scottish Union during its centennial observance, 1969-70.

"I have not had the personal contact with Southern Baptists that Andrew has," Barber said in an interview the day before his induction. "I can see the value of it. It's full of exciting potential, but I've got to grow into it."

Barber indicated he would continue MacRae's policies, and pledged to spend the first year getting to know the challenges ahead for Scottish Baptists.

MacRae and Barber are lifelong friends. They came from the same church and school in Edinburgh and attended the same university.

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Larry and Gayle Jerden are freelance writers living in Dallas, Texas.

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Dallas bureau of Baptist Press.

R fugees' Plight Calls  
Pegram Again and Again

By Mary Jane Welch

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ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—When South Vietnam fell to the communists in April 1975, Linda Pegram could not rest until she did something about it.

She could not return to the country where she spent two years as a Southern Baptist missionary journeyman, but she could help Vietnamese refugees coming to her country. Within weeks she fulfilled her job obligations in Indiana and headed for Fort Chaffee, Ark., where thousands of refugees were housed, to teach English as a second language and coordinate information on American school systems.

In those months, she saw a need which moved her along the road to appointment in April as a career missionary to work with refugees in Hong Kong.

Although her window in Qui Nhon, South Vietnam, looked out onto a schoolyard full of refugees from the countryside, the only ones she knew well were those in her student group. But she did develop a love for the Vietnamese people and an awareness of their need for Christ's power to liberate them from a religion of bondage.

"The time in Vietnam really changed my whole perspective," she says. She had left America feeling she would pursue a career as a Christian student worker. By her second year as a journeyman assisting career missionaries in Vietnam, she felt sure God wanted her to pursue a career overseas.

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She was charmed by the Vietnamese people, by their customs, and by the friends she had made among them. "When Vietnam fell, there was no peace for me in just hearing about it. Since then, God has just opened door after door to let me remain in contact with the Vietnamese," she said.

The first door opened to Fort Chaffee; the next opened to refugee camps in Bangkok and Songkhla, Thailand, where she was a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board volunteer. When she returned to the United States and entered Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, she found a job as a counselor to Indochinese refugees at a guidance center in Fort Worth, Texas. From there she went to Atlanta, Ga., to become a case worker for the refugee resettlement office of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The last door led to Hong Kong, where she expects to coordinate Baptist work with Indochinese refugees who have fled by boat.

One of the folks she remembers best from her refugee involvement is a man who came daily to her reading room at Fort Chaffee. She thought he was coming to read, but learned one day that he was sneaking into the bathroom to cry. "He had no place to go where he could be alone with his tears," she said.

He had been a top-level interpreter relating the Vietnamese government to the Taiwanese government, but as a refugee he had no family or job. "I was very important and now I am nothing," he told her. Because of his training, Miss Pegram feels he eventually was able to recoup some of his losses.

In Thailand, she met another man who became especially dear to her. Often she went into town to buy fabric for the women refugees because they had little clothing and could not leave the camp.

One day she had just finished the ordeal of distributing everyone's fabric and proper change, when this man walked up wanting to know why she hadn't brought his wife's fabric. Her first reaction was anger, but she calmly said she didn't believe his wife had come for her fabric.

"My wife had to go to the hospital with my little baby," he told her. He wasn't really concerned about the cloth at all. He was terribly worried about his infant, who had been rushed to the hospital with a high fever.

When Miss Pegram found his wife at the hospital, the woman had been there all day without food. Because she spoke no Thai, she could not communicate with the hospital staff. Linda got her food, encouraged the nurses to take a greater interest in the infant, and arranged for her husband to leave the camp so he could stay at the hospital while the woman went home to rest.

Not long after that, the man started coming to Christian meetings and became a Christian. The day Linda left, he was the person who sneaked out the back of the camp to buy her a present. "He probably had to wade through the water and swim a little bit," she said, but he "slipped back into camp where he hand-engraved my precious gift."

The whole camp had pitched in at least one baht (about a nickel) for the set of carved water buffalo horns he brought back. The horns, she said, are "ugly as sin," but also "the most beautiful gift I ever received because those people didn't have anything."