



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

October 17, 1980

80-165

Cheyne Suggests Guidelines For Growing Relief Ministries

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--With world hunger and relief donations mushrooming toward a record year, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's relief ministries consultant has developed guidelines for a relief program closely tied to the board's overall objectives.

Contributions through September reached \$3,205,686—almost double the amount given in the comparable period last year—and the 1980 total may top \$5 million, said John R. Cheyne.

At its October meeting, the Foreign Mission Board appropriated \$456,100 for relief work around the world. Almost half of that, much already released on an emergency basis, was targeted for relief of flood and drought victims in Africa and South America.

To aid with effective use of relief receipts, Cheyne, consultant for relief ministries, suggested ways in which funds can be used to meet both immediate and long range hunger and relief needs.

"You don't just spend the \$5 million we're anticipating this year by giving it away," he said. "You've got to fit it into the context of the total mission program so that it not only complements the program, but may open new opportunities."

Citing reports that indicate the world hunger problem will grow in almost direct proportion to the population explosion, he said a strategy to meet real needs must involve developmental projects targeted toward breaking the poverty cycle. "Emphasis will be given to self-help rather than 'give-away' approaches," he said.

Cheyne said special consideration should be given to opportunities to combine hunger and disaster responses with opening new fields or areas of work and expanding existing programs. He suggested combining relief work with ministries which meet both physical and spiritual needs.

He believes missionaries should receive more training for hunger and disaster response and that the board should consider appointing missionaries equipped to lead special projects in hunger and disaster response. Other suggestions include more use of long-term volunteers in community development teams and forming teams similar to present medical disaster teams that would be ready to respond to non-medical needs in a disaster.

Relief appropriations made in October showed many of Cheyne's concepts already have been incorporated in the board's program. The \$25,000 appropriated to famine areas in Ethiopia is being used to buy and distribute food, but appropriations for drought-stricken areas of Kenya and P ru will be used for such things as seed, fertilizer and irrigation projects which will enable people to provide their own food.

The largest single appropriation, \$166,400, will go to Baptist Christian aid in Malawi for purchase of maize and seed for 12 areas of immediate need, populated by about 50,000 people.

Three appropriations were made for continuing long-term programs in the Philippines and Brazil. A \$90,000 appropriation will provide for continuing operation of a program for equipping refugees at the Bataan, Philippines, Indo-Chinese refugee center with skills for making a living.

Another \$31,700 was appropriated for opening a rural life center in the Cagayan Valley on northeast Luzon in the Philippines. Like the two Baptist rural life centers already operating on Mindanao, it would provide a Christian witness while helping the rural people of the area improve livestock and crop production.

A \$70,000 appropriation will fund the fourth year of a five-year pilot goodwill center hunger project in Recife, Brazil. The program has three phases: food assistance for poor families, assistance for children to go to school, improving their chances for future employment, and assistance to uneducated and poor workers in obtaining documents necessary for finding employment.

In the first appropriation of its kind, \$15,000 was allotted for a disaster relief-rural development conference to be held jointly for the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship and missionary representatives in the Caribbean. The Foreign Mission Board has held similar conferences for missionaries, said Cheyne, but this is the first conference requested by national Baptists, who felt the need to be better prepared for the frequent disasters which have plagued their area in recent years.

-30-

HMB Directors Approve
\$36.6 Million Budget

Baptist Press
10/17/80

ATLANTA (BP) --Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board adopted a \$36.6 million budget for 1981 during their fall meeting.

"This is the largest budget in the history of the Home Mission Board," said Carl Bates of Charlotte, N.C., board member who presented the budget proposal.

"It represents an increase of 132 percent above the 1971 HMB budget, and it is a raise of 7.9 percent above last year's budget," he said.

The budget increase was made necessary because of cost of living increases and "recessionary pressures," but board President William G. Tanner pointed to the continued high levels of stewardship in recession ravaged areas such as Michigan as reason for optimism.

Tanner warned that time is running out on the opportunity to reach the United States for Christ.

"I do know the indicators of both good and evil seem to be shouting at us," he said. "One is challenging; the other is warning. But both are telling us the same message: 'Whatever you Southern Baptists plan to do to evangelize America, you had better do it now.'"

-more-

The board will funnel as much money as possible into missions and evangelism endeavors and will stretch dollars that will be spent to conduct day-to-day business, Bates said.

Although air fare costs have climbed more than 30 percent in the past year, HMB travel costs were expanded only about 10 percent in the new budget, he illustrated. Budgets for office supplies, long distance telephone calls and similar items were not increased at all.

Major budget allocations include \$27.59 million for missions, \$2.62 million for evangelism, \$1.34 million for general administration and special projects, \$650,000 for planning and \$4.4 million for support services.

The budget reflects "an effort to keep up with inflation every way we can," said Leonard Irwin, vice president for planning. "I feel it indicates we're doing a pretty good job."

Tanner added the budget also reflects an emphasis on personnel. It provides salary increases for missionaries, leadership staff and office support personnel. It also provides for a new retirement plan which eventually will allow the board to contribute 10 percent of all employee salaries into retirement annuities.

He noted the pressure to combat inflation and adequately support HMB personnel "means that new programs, of necessity, have to be carefully evaluated before being started." The budget earmarked \$650,000 for those new programs.

The '81 budget depends on receipts of \$14.9 million from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and \$14.5 million from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. The remaining \$7.2 million includes excess funds from those two sources, church loans funds, a differential left over from 1980 Cooperative Program funds, designated monies and gifts and grants, earnings on investments, rental income and attrition funds.

Noting the disparity between the \$17.25 million Annie Armstrong offering goal and the amount budgeted, Tanner explained: "We feel it wise to budget conservatively" during a period of unstable economic conditions.

"We hope to get at least 104 percent of our '81 Annie Armstrong goal, just like we did this year," Tanner said. "When we surpass our budget figures...the excess will go into new work and support of Home Mission Board endeavors."

-30-

Ken Watkins Recuperating
At Home Following Mishap

Baptist Press
10/17/80

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)--Kenneth H. Watkins, Southern Baptist missionary who was seriously injured in a traffic accident Aug. 18, has been released by the private hospital where he spent several weeks in intensive care.

Doctors expect a full recovery after four to six months' rest at home.

Watkins was injured when his Volkswagen van collided with a Jeep in the city of Puerto Presidente Stoessner near the Brazilian border. He was taken to a hospital two blocks from the accident and immediately underwent surgery for multiple injuries. He also received a broken arm and broken leg.

-30-



-- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

October 17, 1980

80-165

Thought Dead, Boyce Bible
Student Sings from Crypt

By Steven L. Higdon

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Lionel Patton came alive in a New Orleans mortuary.

Thought dead, Patton was sent to the mortuary after an accident in which his car had hit a concrete abutment. The lower part of his face was severed from his skull, clinging only by some skin and muscle. Because doctors could find no trace of pulse, he was declared dead on arrival.

When he woke up in the mortuary crypt, Patton thought he was in heaven. He tried to pray and sing hymns. Finally an attendant heard him and had him sent back to the hospital.

"When I came to in the morgue," Patton recalls, "I was sort of singing. I thought I was going to a better place, but I was still stuck in this miserable world. Since I was here, I felt like I had to turn it (his life) around and make it a positive motion instead of a negative one. I had been spending my life on the road making a pile of money, but it didn't mean anything to me."

The incident became the catalyst that turned Patton's life around, leading him to study for the ministry at Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Patton had won honors as a high school vocalist in Hawaii, but he lost his desire to sing after moving to Alabama at age 19. He felt unaccepted in Alabama and became an introvert.

He was a driver for a large busing and trucking firm when he had the accident in April. Patton spent four weeks in the hospital and upon reflection, was disappointed in everything he had been involved with before—his singing, driving, Golden Gloves boxing and karate.

"I wanted my life to count for something and the only way I knew to do that was to improve a skill I thought I lost," he says.

That skill was his singing which he wanted to use in ministry. Since he hadn't graduated from college, and because his father, Ernest L. Patton, had graduated from Southern Seminary, Boyce Bible School was his choice for training.

"Right now I'm singing for any church that asks me," Patton says. "It seems like this testimony is getting across to some people in church who just don't listen unless something different happens."

Comparing his current life to that before April, Patton declared that it takes "more guts to get up in front of a congregation and tell a testimony and sing than it does to walk into a bar room and take on two or three guys. It's a lot more frightening to me."

Patton wants to make sure people know the source of his new life.

"When I sing, at the end, I say 'unto only God be the glory' because people have a way of sometimes praising you when it's not you. I wouldn't be here, I wouldn't be talking, much less singing if it were just me."

-30-

Higdon is the editor of Towers, Southern Seminary's campus newspaper.
(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southern Seminary.

Refugee Woes Affect
Everyone, Missionary Says

ATLANTA (BP)--Problems of refugees who have flocked to the United States in recent months are problems of all Americans, and Christians must be concerned about them, a long-time refugee worker told directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"The plight of the refugees is a missions challenge, an evangelism challenge," said Milton Leach, a Southern Baptist missionary who helped the first wave of Cuban refugees in 1959 and now coordinates refugee resettlement efforts in Miami, Fla.

Leach reported 150,000 refugees currently live in southeastern Florida. That number includes 100,000 Cubans, 30,000 Haitians, 10,000 Nicaraguans and thousands of Indochinese.

"They need our help," he said, noting the refugees face language barriers and obstacles of hatred and resentment.

He recounted the plight of 1,000 Filipino nurses who had been deported from the United States because no one had taught them English and they couldn't get jobs without language skills. He also explained the fear of Haitian refugees who dread being "shipped to a place where people don't like them and don't want them."

"We must do our part to solve these problems," he added. "We can't resettle all of them; we can't teach all of them; we can't support all of them, but we must spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to all we can."

Leach advocated more than evangelism, however.

Southern Baptists are trying to establish a refugee resettlement center in Miami, halfway between Liberty City, home of many Haitians, and Little Havana, a Cuban stronghold, he said. Besides trying to resettle the refugees, workers at the center will try to find jobs refugees can do and provide food, clothing, medical aid and pastoral counseling.

"We have asked our state Baptist conventions and associations of churches to help us," Leach said. "We'll be looking out over our Southern Baptist Convention for people who can help these refugees."

The concept of the resettlement center will be to minister to physical and spiritual needs, he explained.

"We want to say to these people, 'We, as Baptists, are here to help you. And we want to tell you about Jesus,'" he said.

That task will never be completed, Leach admitted: "Even after some of them are resettled, there still will be more refugees in southeastern Florida than we can ever reach."