



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 12, 1981

8-05

Home Missionary Simpson  
Honored For 'Excellence'

ATLANTA (BP)--Samuel G. Simpson, a Southern Baptist missionary in New York City, was one of four Jamaicans in North America who received Air Jamaica Airlines' 1980 Award of Excellence for outstanding contributions to their communities and Jamaican nationals living abroad.

Simpson and his counterparts were selected from hundreds of nominees by the airlines and Jamaican government officials.

Jamaican Governor General Florizel Glasspole lauded Simpson at an awards banquet for the honorees. "Rev. Simpson has shown tremendous drive, energy, imagination, determination, vision, and he has shown care for the underprivileged," Glasspole said. "He went to the United States of America as a humble Jamaican in 1959; today, he has built up a reputation that demands respect."

Simpson is pastor/director of Bronx Baptist Church and Wake Eden Baptist Chapel, both in the Bronx section of New York. He is supported jointly by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of New York.

He founded Bronx Baptist Church in 1964, and the congregation has since started three other churches in the Bronx. Simpson also has established church daycare centers, a nursery school and remedial and daycamp programs.

Additionally, he has helped cool hostilities among the city's street gangs. He helped pilot the Twin Parks Project, which created 3,000 units of housing, three schools and a daycare center. Now he is helping to lead the Bronx Shepherds, a group of clergymen who are attempting to revitalize derelict areas of the community.

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Relief Tent Replaced  
By Pre-Fab Building

Baptist Press  
1/12/81

SENERCHIA, Italy (BP)--The tent which has been the focal point of Southern Baptist earthquake relief efforts in southern Italy was quickly replaced after a mountain storm destroyed it Christmas Eve.

The new quarters in Senerchia is a 1,000-square-foot prefabricated building on the former tent site. Plans are to move the building to a site with a more permanent foundation of gravel and cement, says Southern Baptist missionary Bob Holifield.

The missionary said two strong gusts of wind attacked the tent during the December storm. The first strained the stakes anchoring it; the second sent the frame flying in one direction and the rest of the tent in another.

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The tent had provided some measure of shelter for residents of Senerchia, a village covered in three feet of snow and assaulted by strong winds and bitter cold since shortly after the November earthquake. Most of the residents are housed in trailers, but came to the tent for food three times each day.

Southern Baptists have allocated \$276,000 for a three-month food dispersal project, which is expected to feed 600 persons per day.

A small football fieldhouse became the meeting place for Christmas Day religious services, and then assumed the role of cookhouse and dining room until the new building was erected. Holifield says the tent belonged to the Piedmont Baptist Association in Turin.

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Israeli Baptists Seek  
Government Registration

Baptist Press  
1/12/81

BAPTIST VILLAGE, Israel (BP)--The Association of Baptist Churches in Israel is seeking government registration to obtain greater legal status for Baptists in Israel.

Delegates from five churches and four centers voted unanimously to register under the Friendly Societies Law passed recently by Israel's Knesset.

Registration by April 1 as a Friendly Society will allow the association to have a bank account and to be exempt from paying taxes on the organization's income. Such recognition will facilitate the purchase and sale of property and will serve as a channel of representation for all Baptists in Israel.

Association leaders consider this step to be important, especially in light of a law now being considered by the Knesset which would prohibit or severely restrict the sale of land to "foreigners." The history of this bill shows that this means, first of all, the sale of land to churches and missions, according to Southern Baptist missionary Elizabeth F. Smith.

Ibrahim Sim'an, a minister in Haifa and clerk of the association's business session, will make the official application for registration. He pointed out Baptists in Israel are not recognized as a religious community, although they are permitted to perform marriages and conduct funerals. Of non-Catholic groups, only the Anglicans and the Bahais are recognized and given legal status.

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Support For Families Urged  
By White House Conference

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press  
1/12/81

WASHINGTON (BP)--Leaders of the White House Conference on Families (WHCF) have challenged members of the religious community to continue and increase their support of the American family.

During a one day briefing, WHCF Chairman Jim Guy Tucker joined Southern Baptist family life specialist Harry N. Hollis Jr. in calling churches and synagogues "the best friends families have," and urged religious leaders to maintain their support.

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"When it comes to the family, there is no more influential or pivotal community than the religious community," Tucker said.

Through the briefing, the WHCF sought to familiarize the religious leaders with recommendations compiled from three conferences last summer at Baltimore, Minneapolis and Los Angeles as well as involve them in developing strategies for implementation of the recommendations.

Despite the controversy surrounding the WHCF over such emotionally volatile issues as abortion and the definition of family, delegates reached a consensus on a remarkable range of issues from responsible treatment of family by the media to the need to combat drug abuse to sensitivity to the impact of government on the family.

Hollis, director of family and special moral concerns for the SBC Christian Life Commission, warned against uncritical acceptance of attacks by WHCF critics.

Recalling a picket sign outside the Baltimore meeting which labeled the WHCF "anti-God," Hollis urged the religious leaders to "read the report" and to "praise or blame the conference according to the report, not according to the picketers."

The Baptist ethicist suggested Baptists should support those WHCF recommendations that are compatible with their own beliefs.

"Don't judge the White House Conference," Hollis further cautioned, "by the press releases of opportunistic critics trying to raise money for their ego-centered kingdoms."

During his presentation Hollis explained the importance of examining the impact of American institutions on the family, emphasizing the necessity of looking at the impact of religion as well as that of government.

Hollis pointed to the media as another institution with a large effect on the family and called for more pressure on the broadcast networks to produce programming more favorable to the family.

"There is a stampede for deregulation now in Washington, but the American family cannot stand an unregulated, unprincipled media," Hollis said.

Tucker, a former Arkansas congressman, said the positive impact of the WHCF will extend beyond the Carter administration which produced it.

"This White House Conference and especially the family, transcend purely partisan politics," Tucker said in explaining why religious leaders were invited to the briefing during the closing days of the Carter administration.

Regardless of the long-range impact of the conference, WHCF leaders insist the immediate effect has been to move the family to a more prominent place of concern for many American institutions and individuals.

**Seminary Extension Totals  
Top 10,000 For Third Year**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--For the third consecutive year, more than 10,000 persons participated in Seminary Extension study programs during 1979-80, according to Raymond Rigdon, director of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department.

Seminary Extension, an arm of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, seeks to provide theological and practical study opportunities for pastors and others unable to attend a seminary.

Record highs were recorded in the number of extension centers, students and course enrollments, Rigdon said.

Courses were taught last year in 397 centers, an increase of more than nine percent over the previous year. The centers are located in 41 states plus Puerto Rico and four foreign countries—Cuba, England, Mexico and West Germany. The centers are locally operated, usually sponsored by a Baptist association and most often taught by pastors with seminary degrees, using Seminary Extension Department materials.

Students enrolled in either a center or through Seminary Extension's Home Study Institute totaled 10,554, up 49 from 1978-79. Courses taken by these students increased by almost 1,000, to a record level of 15,919.

North Carolina continued to lead all other states in its involvement with Seminary Extension, with 78 centers, involving 2,297 persons. Texas was second, with 34 centers and 1,112 students, while Florida followed with 23 centers and 935 students. Eighteen states showed an increased number of active centers.

Home study participation during the year declined to 1,551, but these students were scattered over 48 states and 15 foreign countries. Several of the overseas students are in countries where Southern Baptists do not have missionaries, including East Germany, the Republic of Cameroon and Saudi Arabia.

Biblical courses remained the most popular in both the basic and college-level curriculum series, followed by practical courses in evangelism and preaching.

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**Longtime HMB Leader  
Frank Garrison Dies**

**Baptist Press  
1/12/81**

ATLANTA (BP)--G. Frank Garrison, 82, former president and assistant executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, died after he collapsed at his Atlanta home Jan. 11.

Garrison, a layman, was president (chairman) of the board from 1944 to 1953. He then stepped aside from his insurance business to serve as assistant executive-secretary-treasurer and director of the board's Church Loans Division from 1954 to 1965.

His family requests memorials be made to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

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Missionaries To El Salvador  
Buoyed By Growing Ministry

By Mike Livingston

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP)--Foreign Mission Board officials report record sales from the literature ministry in El Salvador and say there are no plans to withdraw Southern Baptist missionaries from the strife-torn Central American country.

"In fact, another missionary family, Ernest and Lee Ann McAninch, just entered the country this month after completing language school in Costa Rica," said Don Kammerdiener, director for middle America and the Caribbean.

Hoyt and Marie Eudaly--ages 67 and 68--were the only Southern Baptist missionaries in El Salvador for the past six months while Bill and Libby Stennett were on furlough. The Stennetts returned to El Salvador Jan. 12, and the Eudalys are scheduled to go on furlough in February, which will leave the missionary force in the country at four.

Kammerdiener said the Eudalys recently told him they "have to look over their shoulders more often than they used to," but otherwise are carrying on their regular ministry. The book deposit in San Salvador, according to Kammerdiener, led the Spanish-speaking world in the wholesale distribution of Baptist literature during July 1980.

A pastor of another denomination in El Salvador recently said there has been some deterioration in the attitude toward North Americans among the population, according to Kammerdiener. He said the pastor partially attributes the changes to actions by the U.S. State Department which have been interpreted as interference into the affairs of El Salvador. The pastor also said the people resented the State Department's insistence on an outside investigation into present conditions in the country.

The State Department has set up a system called the "warden system" under which every U.S. citizen in El Salvador would be notified of any immediate need to evacuate or to take other precautions, Kammerdiener said. The system, normal procedure in crisis areas, is nothing beyond customary safety measures, he added.

More than 9,000 slayings have been reported in El Salvador within the past year. Included were four American Catholic women missionaries who were killed in December and two American men who were slain less than one month later on Jan. 4.

Kammerdiener stressed that the missionaries do not believe they are in any special danger. "They all feel that they are where they should be and are happy to have the opportunity to minister in El Salvador," he said.