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Military-Style System Helps
Hospital Cope With Overload

By Susan Cahen

NALERIGU, Ghana (BP)--The Baptist Medical Centre in Nalerigu, Ghana, has implemented a military-style treatment priority system to help handle large numbers of patients at the hospital's outpatient clinic.

Modeled after the triage system military units use to assess treatment priorities of battlefield casualties, the hospital's screening system is helping the handful of doctors and other medical personnel at Nalerigu handle up to 700 clinic patients a day.

Approximately 80 percent of the people coming on clinic days will now be screened by someone on the medical staff, then routed directly to the pharmacy for drugs and sent home. Most of these patients have minor complaints or have already seen a doctor without access to medication. Drugs are extremely scarce in Ghana.

The 20 percent with more serious ailments are screened a second time by paramedical personnel who can order preliminary laboratory workups or send the patient directly to see a physician. This means the physician can see more patients well, says Franklin T. Fowler, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's medical consultant and a member of the hospital evaluation team which recommended these changes last fall.

Fowler adds that some people consider medical missions to be "mass medicine" because of the vast numbers to be treated, as at Nalerigu. But the triage system has allowed the staff, limited by severe personnel shortages, to cut their 14-hour days to eight or eight and one-half hours and still get the job done.

The personnel problem afflicts all Southern Baptist medical missions, but is more acute at some like Nalerigu which have had to rely on volunteers and special project workers or cut back services because they lack career missionaries.

Dr. Frances Greenway is the only career missionary physician assigned to the hospital. Dr. Walter Moore curtailed some of his work in a public health ministry to help in the clinic, but has been limited in recent weeks by injuries sustained in a Dec. 18 auto accident.

The Nalerigu staff has been boosted by two short-term physicians—one a special project worker, the other a volunteer. Fowler says there is a real need for volunteer surgeons to fill in during the rest of the year.

A career missionary will transfer to Ghana from Tanzania next July, Fowler adds, but there is still a "desperate" need for physicians with specialties in surgery, pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology. Three nurses also are needed immediately, as well as two nurse midwives, a nurse practitioner and a hospital administrator.

The Baptist institution in Nalerigu, the only hospital within a 100-mile radius, has opened the way into an area of great response to the gospel. It has already been directly or indirectly responsible for establishing 30 small preaching points.

Hogue Elected Chairman
Of Lausanne Committee

DES PLAINES, Ill. (BP)—C. B. Hogue, vice president for evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been elected chairman of the North American Lausanne Committee.

The committee is a regional wing of a larger 50-member group of world evangelism leaders seeking to implement the objectives of the World Congress on Evangelization held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1975. Hogue is the first Southern Baptist named to a major office in the Lausanne follow-up committee structure.

Hogue stressed that although the committee does not initiate programs, it is a clearing-house and resource center for evangelical groups in North America.

Hogue also is serving as program chairman planning the American Festival of Evangelism, slated July 27-31, in Kansas City. More than 20,000 Christians concerned about evangelism from 120 evangelical organizations and denominations in North America are expected to attend.

In addition to planning the evangelism festival, the committee asked Hogue to explore the possibility of sponsoring a small consultation to deal with the challenge of reaching ethnic groups in North America.

Other officers named by the North American Lausanne Committee included James Massey, speaker on the Christian Brotherhood Hour of the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.), vice chairman; Warren Webster, general director of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, secretary; and Duncan Brown, a Presbyterian layman from Pittsburg, Pa., treasurer.

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Indiana Editor
Censured, Resigns

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—Gene Medaris, editor of the Indiana Baptist since June 1977, resigned Feb. 2 after he was censured by the state convention's executive committee.

Censure followed printing of two letters the committee deemed "controversial," but convention executive director R. V. Haygood and chairman of the executive committee, David Simpson, say the letters incident only illustrates long-term "poor judgment" on the editor's part.

"The issue is over the philosophy of what a state Baptist newspaper should be," said Medaris, a former missionary, pioneer preacher and secular religion editor. "Is it to be a house organ or is it to be a newspaper? This is a problem all papers have when they are directly under the executive board."

An unsigned letter in the Dec. 16 issue of the weekly newspaper questioned two actions of the executive board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. It questioned the reasoning behind a special interest account called Fund 58, and the action of the executive board in creating the job of administrative assistant the week following the annual meeting of the state convention without mentioning it to the convention.

Medaris asked the writer in an editor's note for more time to secure accurate answers to the questions.

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"If he did not understand the question, he should have given someone a chance to answer who did understand before he printed the letter," said Simpson, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in New Whiteland. The executive committee felt that Medaris' printing of the letter without answering the questions created controversy.

"Our view is that anonymous letters should not be printed," said Simpson. "If a man has the intelligence to write a letter, he should also have the courage to put his name on it. To withhold the name is poor judgment on the editor's part. There is an understanding between the executive board and the editor that this is not the way things are to be done."

The committee's censure reads in part: "One purpose of the Indiana Baptist is to create unity...and the unsigned letter of Dec. 16, 1980 was controversial, created disharmony." The censure instructed the editor "to share controversial letters of issues with the executive director before printing and have concurrence."

"We never thought the censure would precipitate his resignation," Simpson said. "We were simply trying to give some direction to Brother Medaris and were trying to work with him." Simpson said the censure was the product of his committee, but "the problem" was presented to the committee by Executive Director R.V. Haygood.

"The problem" was aggravated with the publication of a second letter from another source, asking for answers to the first and calling Fund 58 a "slush" fund. Haygood says he had asked Medaris not to publish the letter.

Fund 58 is a special account that collects the interest from the investment on non-Cooperative Program money. The executive board authorizes expenditures from the fund. Money from the fund bought an automobile and a television set as retirement gifts for former Indiana Executive Director E. Harmon Moore, an action the writer of the second letter disapproved.

Concerning the administrative assistant, Haygood said budget for the position was approved at the convention. Persons are employed by the board and not by the convention.

Though Haygood said there is nothing in the censure that would "muzzle an editor," Medaris said he "is not even allowed to take an issue to the state executive committee or the state paper committee without first talking it over with the executive director."

Haygood, executive director since Jan. 1, said his own job description says "It's clearly understood by all that members of the convention staff report directly to the executive director-treasurer and not directly to the executive board or its committees."

"It seems to me that for a paper to function properly, it should have a board of trustees elected from the floor of the convention and not just controlled by the executive board," Medaris said.

The Indiana Baptist is published by the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, which means, ultimately, the state executive board which acts as the convention between annual meetings. That structure makes Medaris answerable to Haygood.

"The executive director gave him some directives he was not willing to follow," said Haygood. "The censure was not satisfactory to him in that any issue of a controversial nature would need to be cleared with the executive director."

Medaris, 51, is a graduate of Baylor University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Alaska. He was a missionary in Trinidad and Venezuela, religion editor in Fairbanks, Alaska, and writer-editor for the Bureau of Land Management. He was given three months salary and benefits upon resignation.

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Senior Couple Boosts
'Hot Spot' Ministry

By Susan Cahen

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SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP)--Five years ago Southern Baptist missionaries Hoyt and Marie Eudaly, working in the security of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, were just around the corner from retirement.

Today, in their late 60s, the Eudalys are caught up in another literature ministry that thrives despite El Salvador's political turmoil.

They live in a land where both precaution and prayer are essential. Each day they choose a different route to their bookstore work downtown and constantly look over their shoulder while moving about the city.

Often, when shooting erupts in an area near the bookstore, pedestrians take refuge inside. But this, the Eudalys say, gives them "an opportunity to witness to people in great need of our Lord."

It was this kind of need that prompted them to continue working after their 25 years at the El Paso publishing house brought them to retirement age. They felt the Lord leading them to serve "anywhere and under any conditions."

They left behind the home they had lived in for a quarter-century as well as the furniture, china and other accouterments that had come with 32 years of marriage and rearing three children. They explained their feeling the Lord wanted them to serve elsewhere as "stronger perhaps than our original call to missions."

The Eudalys worked first in Nicaragua for 13 months. They spend about half that time in the midst of a Marxist insurrection.

Although the scene is almost identical in El Salvador, the Eudalys have learned to live with growing violence, with having a house sitter at all times, with washing clothes in cold water in a flat, cement container called a tilla, and with doing heavy cleaning without electrical appliances.

Living near so much gunfire and violence is an emotional strain, Marie Eudaly admits. And moving books is hard physical work. But she quickly adds that the rewards have made it all worthwhile...the literature ministries in both Nicaragua and El Salvador are flourishing.

"We work together, just side by side. We have lived as if we were camping...and everything has been put into this literature ministry." Yet, Mrs. Eudaly says, these three and one-half years have been the happiest of their lives.

The bookstore and book deposit (wholesale distributing arm of the El Paso publishing house) in El Salvador were part of a growing work led by Southern Baptist missionary Bill Stennett when the Eudalys arrived to help. The trend has mushroomed.

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During a little more than two years of Stennett-Eudaly management, sales at the book deposit increased 650 percent and by the end of three years had increased by 1,000 percent.

"The work here has grown in a way that is so unusual that persons like us tend not to talk about it because it might sound like braggadocio," says Mrs. Eudaly. "But there is nothing in the world except that the Lord did it."

Southern Baptist missionary Laverne Gregory of the publishing house in El Paso would not dispute the Lord's role in El Salvador. But he says that Hoyt Eudaly deserves a lot of credit for the dramatic increases in literature sales.

Distribution is important, Gregory says, and Eudaly has actively sought new outlets for materials. He gives buyers information on how materials can best be utilized, along with other sales tips. He targets certain materials for non-Baptist vendors and shows them how easy it is to get materials through the book deposit.

Mrs. Eudaly says that she and her husband contacted every denomination and every bookstore in the 120-by-80 mile country. "We went all over the country before the violence got so bad," she says. "The fact that we came with experience (in literature sales) opened the door, and many felt immediately that Hoyt was someone who could help them."

Although the unstable political situation in El Salvador has curtailed travel outside the city of San Salvador, Mrs. Eudaly says that religious liberty has continued and the opportunities for a Christian witness have increased along with the violence.

Mrs. Eudaly says the more violence there is, it seems, the greater the desire for Bibles. The bookstore has recently been purchasing a pickup load (about \$2,000 worth) every three weeks.

To cope with the 24-hour threat of danger, the Eudalys take precautions but rely heavily on prayer. Before they go out in their own car, they use the prayer of many of their fellow Christians: "Lord, we don't know if we are going to get there or not, but we are trusting you that we won't be killed."

"I can truthfully say I have never prayed as much in my life as I pray in the car for God to hide it," says Mrs. Eudaly. "In the body, physically, we feel very threatened. In the heart, spiritually, there is a peace and a confidence that we have never known in our lives."