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81-59

100 People Sheltered In Lebanese Church

By Anne Nicholas

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)--Approximately 100 people are sleeping in the basement of Badaro Street Baptist Church to escape the violent shelling in the eastern Christian section of Beirut, Lebanon.

The group began to gather in the basement shelter after severe fighting the first weekend in April.

Eli Haddad, secretary to Emmett Barnes, president of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, was among those who spent four days in the church shelter before taking advantage of a lull in the fighting to move her family to the seminary, situated in the hillside village of Monsouriyeh. The seminary has remained open although two teachers have been unable to get there.

Mrs. Haddad reported two shells exploded in the street outside the church, sending dirt and rocks into the basement, while another 120 mm shell fell through the ceiling of the church entranceway. The shell landed on the floor above the basement but failed to explode.

Sunday morning the group began worship as usual but were forced to stop as the increasing noise of machine gun fire and artillery drowned out the voices.

In west Beirut, the Beirut Baptist School where missionary Jim Ragland is principal temporarily suspended classes because of the risks of transporting children in school buses.

In the Beirut suburb of Ashrafiyeh, a British evangelical school was hit by shells on April 2, just minutes after the children had been taken to the basement shelter.

In Christian areas of the country most schools remain closed and people stay home as they wait to see if diplomatic efforts to effect a lasting cease-fire are successful.

In Beirut, Syrian troops exchanged rocket and heavy artillery fire with Lebanese army units and militiamen of the right-wing Christian Phalange Party across the line dividing the Moslem and Christian sectors of the capital.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon, all of who live in the Beirut area, are safe and continuing their work despite difficulties encountered in traveling between the eastern and western sectors of the city.

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(Anne Nicholas is Southern Baptist press representative in Beirut.)

Family Ministers
Form Association

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--An organization to be an advocate of the family has been founded by a group of professionals engaged in local family ministry.

The Southern Baptist Association of Family Ministers "grew out of a need to share common interests and ideas," according to Bill Harrison, minister of counseling at First Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., president of the new association.

Among the formal objectives for the organization are: to serve as a resource to local churches and to family ministers in the SBC, to generate higher visibility for family ministry and to educate and encourage churches in the needs for staff positions and programs in family ministry.

"The organization is an effort to weld together a group of family life leaders who will mount a united effort to strengthen families," said Joseph W. Hinkle, host for the meeting and secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department. "The enormous crisis of hurting families has thrust Southern Baptists into a renewed effort to work together on this denominational concern."

In a keynote address to the more than 40 family ministers who gathered to form the association, Lofton Hudson, pastoral counselor from Omaha, Neb., described today's families as being "in the hand wringing stage." "We really don't know what to do about this revolution we're in," he said.

Among the areas of concern Hudson listed are the changing roles of men and women, cohabitation without legal marriage, changed concepts of sex, divorce and parenting issues.

Hudson urged re-examination of the concept of commitment, a renewed emphasis on the concept of freedom in Christ and a cultivation of the ability to love and be loving.

Membership in the newly-formed association is open to those who have specialized training in personal marriage and family dynamics, who hold positions with primary responsibilities in family ministries and whose work is focused on the local church.

Officers in addition to Harrison are Herman Green, minister of pastoral care at First Baptist Church, El Paso, Texas, vice president and membership chairman; and Robert Money, minister of counseling at First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., secretary.

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

'We Loved Eddie;
We Will Miss Him'

By Marv Knox

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ATLANTA (BP)--"We loved Eddie. We'll miss him very much," said Terry Moncrief.

Moncrief, a Southern Baptist home missionary and director of Clark Howell-Techwood Baptist Center in one of the black areas of Atlanta, talked of Eddie Duncan, the latest victim in Atlanta's murdered and missing children case.

Duncan, at 21, was older than most of the other victims, but he was mentally retarded, had a speech impediment and walked with a limp, disadvantages police believe made him as vulnerable as the 21 younger victims of the murderer—or murderers—who have stalked the black community in Atlanta for 20 months. -more-

"I've known Eddie for nine years—the whole time I've been at the center," said Moncrief. "He came here almost every day and felt very much a part of the family."

Duncan, who did not join any regular groups of children, was instead Moncrief's "shadow," helping run errands and doing odd jobs for the director.

"I sometimes thought he believed he was the director," Moncrief said. "He'd come by my office and use the telephone if I wasn't in. Then he'd stroll through the building, checking out the rooms before the children came in."

Moncrief said he did not realize the significance of Duncan's procedure until after he died. "All that time, Eddie was doing what I did, mimicking me," he said. "That was his way of feeling accepted."

After he was "14 or 15, the school system didn't have anything for him," and Duncan depended on the center even more heavily. Moncrief helped him get speech therapy and took him across town for classes every week. He also set up vocational rehabilitation courses until Duncan refused to take a required physical.

Because of his relationship with the young man, Moncrief was able to minister to the family after Duncan's body was found on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. He visited with them the night the body was discovered. "We shared together, we cried together and we prayed together," Moncrief said.

The center director, at the request of Duncan's mother and grandparents, conducted the funeral services, telling friends and family to look beyond their grief to see that "God is just and sovereign."

Among Duncan's family and friends, Moncrief has "sensed the kind of togetherness that comes with a grief experience. "It's amazing how many of them have talked about the Lord. Some mention their need for him, and others give witness to what he's done for them."

Nevertheless, the family is "still in the first stage of grief—the numbness God protects you with," Moncrief said.

As he has worked through his own grief, Moncrief has seen reason for hope. The tragedy among Atlanta's children has made other Christian groups interested in helping the inner city, ideally for the "long term," he said. The situation also has made people straighten priorities and place children ahead of pleasures.

But in spite of such positive spin-offs, the pain of Eddie Duncan's death still lingers over the Techwood Center.

"His death made our personal sense of loss feel more real," Moncrief explained. "We loved Eddie. We'll miss him very much."

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Youth Summit Conference
Seeks Agency Cooperation

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4/8/81

LAKE BARKLEY, Ky. (BP)--Strategic youth ministry leaders from every Southern Baptist agency and nearly every state Baptist convention met recently for the first time to increase cooperation and coordination in their ministry area.

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Bob Taylor, consultant in youth ministry coordination at the Baptist Sunday School Board who directed the Youth Ministry Summit Conference, said the youth programs of various agencies sometimes compete for participants.

"Local churches get an overwhelming amount of materials from agencies, promoting their materials, which can result in confusion," Taylor said. "There must be a sensitivity to the time available by local church staff persons to give to youth ministry.

"The fact that many of the strategic youth ministry leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention met for the first time to initiate relationships which can positively affect the future of youth ministry is significant."

Taylor said the 91 representatives went a long way toward resolving the differences that exist between programs and agencies. "There is strength in differences but differences can cause isolation, loss of resources and confusion in churches," said Taylor. "Overlapping and duplication can cost us time, money and effectiveness."

The summit was not called to recommend changes to agencies, but to initiate a new level of communication and cooperation. Another is planned for 1985.

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New Missionaries Appointed
Before Florida Baptists

Baptist Press
4/8/81

LAKELAND, Fla. (BP)—Hearing a Chinese woman say she "might have heard the name of Christ" helped Barton Starr decide to become a missionary.

Starr, a Florida native, was one of 24 persons commissioned as missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at Lakeland Civic Center before an audience of 5,000.

While on a trip into China during the year he and his wife spent as Mission Service Corps volunteers in Hong Kong, Starr made friends with his guide, a young woman who wanted to learn English.

Asking her if she had ever known any Christians, he learned that she didn't know what they were. Not finding the word "Christian" in his Chinese-English dictionary, he showed her the word "Christ" and learned that she had only heard the name.

A college history teacher, Starr said her reply brought to mind a song which says that Christ is only history for some people. Realizing this was true for 85 percent of the students at Hong Kong Baptist College where he was teaching was one of the things that made him consider mission service after returning to the United States.

Starr and his wife, Rebekah Everage Starr, an Alabama native, were appointed to return to Hong Kong.

Hugh Provost, a pharmacist appointee, said he once felt unworthy to consider missionary service. He thought only preachers and other religious workers, not laymen, were good enough to be missionaries. But he learned otherwise, he said, and he and his wife, Brenda Bryles Provost, were appointed to Yemen, where he will be a missionary pharmacist at the Baptist Hospital in Jibla.

Four children of missionaries were among those appointed. All of them will return to the continents where they grew up. Baker and Gail Frazier Hill, who grew up in Nigeria, were appointed to Upper Volta; Curtis Fertell, who grew up in Argentina, and his wife, Deanie Bolls

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Ferrell, were appointed to Ecuador; and Elizabeth Qualls Justl, who grew up in Brazil, and her husband, Walter, were appointed to Brazil.

A 450-voice choir and 60-piece orchestra of musicians from churches throughout Florida opened the service with a 30-minute concert followed by a parade of flags representing the 94 countries where more than 3,000 Southern Baptist missionaries work.

The service marked the second time the Florida Baptist Convention has hosted a foreign mission appointment service in Lakeland. Another service was held there in 1969, the second year in which the board held a spring service outside its home base of Virginia to allow more Southern Baptists to participate.

Fifteen people responded to the invitation at the end of the service making commitments to enter a Christian vocation or foreign mission service.

Others appointed as missionaries were: Larry and Cheryl Catledge Carter of South Carolina, assigned to French West Indies; Rick and Nancy Nesmith Dill, Alabama, to Germany; Ron and Janet Vallery Flurry, Arkansas and Louisiana, to the Philippines; Duane and Patty Brown Garrett, Louisiana and Texas, to Korea; Dennis and Elaine Dicarmino Hampton, Kentucky, to Costa Rica; Braxton Humphries Jr. and Connie Douglas Humphries, Louisiana and Illinois, to Korea; and Kenny and Patty Friedly Sanderfer, Texas, to Senegal.

Dr. Charles Tabor and Ellen Dennis Tabor, former missionaries to Korea, were employed as special project medical workers to Hong Kong-Macao, where he will be a physician.

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Venezuela Church Sees Answer
To Prayer on Two Continents

By Susan Cahen

Baptist Press
4/8/81

PUERTO ORDAZ, Venezuela (BP)—Moises Martinez prayed a long time for money to complete construction of his church in El Palmar, Venezuela.

An ironic chain of events has helped answer that prayer.

When Glen Chism, a Baptist layman from Fulton, Mo., learned last December his company would send him to Venezuela, he prayed God would enable him to help Baptist work there.

In Venezuela, Chism contacted missionaries Mike and Becky Glenn and began touring some of their work including that in El Palmar. Martinez told him about the need for funds to complete the church building. And Chism decided when he got home that he would ask his church, Richland Baptist in Kingdom City, to help.

At home he learned that his pastor, Monroe Hopkins, was gravely ill. Despite Hopkins' request for no life-support devices, he was given blood while in a coma which prolonged his life until shortly after Chism arrived home.

When Mrs. Hopkins learned of the need in El Palmar, she asked that contributions be made to that church in lieu of flowers for her husband's funeral.

Chism took \$1,342 in contributions back to Venezuela, exchanged it for bolivars, the national currency, and presented the money to the church during a Sunday morning worship service.

"Martinez shared with the congregation that morning that for a long time he had been praying that at least 5,000 bolivars would be given or somehow would come to help with the construction of this church," said Glenn. "The amount given was 5,740 bolivars."