



## **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** Jim Newton, 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

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### Major Relief Allocations Set Aside for Brazil, Haiti

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)**--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released more than \$472,000 in general relief and hunger funds in May and June, with almost half of it divided between Brazil and Haiti.

Much of the rest went to relief projects in 10 different nations around the world.

Of the more than \$120,000 allocated to Brazil, \$42,000 is to be used for a maternity and infant nutritional aid project in Belo Jardim. The Baptist church there plans to provide adequate food and medical care for 75 needy expectant mothers, beginning in early pregnancy and continuing through the baby's first year. It also will hold a weekly mother's club to train the mothers in nutrition, health and infant care.

State medical authorities attribute the area's high infant mortality rate to inadequate food and medical care for expectant mothers and their babies.

Another \$36,000 will finance a project of the Brazilian National Mission Board in drought-stricken Itaporanga. The Brazilian home missionary in the city saw 52 children die of hunger during her evangelistic visits in a recent 30-day period. She has projected a three-step program, which will begin by providing 100 children with milk, starches, medicines and some clothing and school materials.

The Boas Novas Baptist Church in Rio de Janeiro will use a \$19,200 allocation to help set up a vocational and nutritional training program in the community. Located between two slums and near one of the city's largest universities and a children's hospital, the church plans to offer classes in skills such as typing, hairdressing and pattern-making, as well as other social ministries.

The \$120,345 allocated to Haiti will be used for well-drilling and for a warehouse and staging area for well-drilling and nutritional projects. Missionary Jack Hancox notes that even problems such as poor health and unemployment are related to the shortage of good water. A recent government study, he says, reported that if all drinking water projects already underway are completed by 1990, there will still be 3.5 million people without good drinking water.

A \$88,571 appropriation for Sudan also attacks a similar problem. There the government has named water development a top priority. Two Southern Baptist missionary couples working among the Murle people of southern Sudan propose building two pilot water catchments (rainwater storage ponds) in their area. If those two are successful, they want to build 15 more catchments within five years after completion of the pilot.

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Like some of the Brazil allocations, \$20,000 going to Jamaica will help underwrite a project of local Baptists. The Bethel Baptist Church, Kingston, has developed a model skill-training course for unemployed women. Foreign Mission Board funds will underwrite its first phase, which will train about 60 women as seamstresses, a skill in great demand on the island.

Another \$20,000 was released to repair the Paraguayan Baptist Theological Institute in Asuncion. Two classrooms and an entrance hall collapsed in May when a ditch, dug by the public power company, apparently caused the building's foundation to cave in.

Other smaller allocations went for projects such as disaster preparedness in Chile and repair of a seminary water system damaged by flooding and a landslide in Venezuela.

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HMB Develops Hunger Survey  
To Help Churches Find Needy

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--There are poor and hungry people in almost every community in America, but most Southern Baptists seem unaware of how to find them or how to minister when they do, Nathan Porter says.

Porter, domestic hunger consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has developed a Local Hunger Survey Guide to help churches discover the need and to devise ministries to prevent hunger and malnutrition.

The guide was tested in Arkadelphia, Ark., where Porter lives and works. The test showed, Porter said, at least 30 percent of the people in Arkadelphia and Clark County need assistance in nutrition.

The survey process depends primarily on interviews with already existing community and government programs to determine what currently is being done to meet the needs of hungry people, and to analyze where the voids are and what else needs to be done, Porter said.

The guide suggests interviews with officials involved in the Food Stamp program, elderly nutrition programs, school lunch and breakfast programs, child care food programs, employment security, and the Special Supplemental Food program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Specific questions to ask these officials are listed in the survey guide, along with tips on conducting the interviews.

The Hunger Survey Guide also offers a plan for action after the data has been compiled. The plan for action calls for getting information to those who qualify for existing food programs, delivery and preparation of meals for the elderly, providing transportation, giving emergency food relief, helping existing programs with volunteers, developing projects a church or mission group needs to start to meet unmet needs, and determining areas where financial assistance is needed and securing funds to meet those needs.

Porter said copies of the Local Hunger Survey Guide are available free to those interested in conducting the survey by writing the Christian Social Ministries Department, SBC Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. N.W., Atlanta, Ga., 30367.

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Baptist To Head  
Notre Dame Music

LAFAYETTE, La. (BP)--Calvin Bower, son of a retired Louisiana Baptist pastor, has been named chairman of the University of Notre Dame department of music.

Bower, son of pastor and Mrs. St. Clair Bower, has been professor of music at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, since 1969.

St. Clair Bower, pastor of several Louisiana Baptist churches and missions before his retirement, said Notre Dame officials felt Calvin's background as a Baptist pastor's son was a positive influence in his selection.

"They said one reason they wanted him, in addition to his professional training, was because he was a Baptist pastor's son and understood church music. One-half of their faculty is not Catholic," Bower said.

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Christian Families Challenged  
To Develop Closer Relationships

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ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Campus ministers and Baptist Student Union directors attending the Directors National Workshop were urged not to allow work demands to force inadequate attention to marriages and families.

John C. Howell, academic dean and professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said studies among Southern Baptist couples show a desire for more intimacy in Christian marriages.

Howell said ministers and their spouses need to have a healthy sense of self before "marital closeness" can be achieved. "Who you are in Jesus Christ and how God's will is working in your life affects how you relate to others," he said. "You have to feel comfortable with the person God is creating in you before you can relate to others."

Ministers spend time helping others acquire interpersonal skills, then fail to practice what they teach, Howell said. "Unfortunately," he explained, "ministers are often hesitant to admit they need to grow."

Howell addressed more than 450 campus ministers and BSU state and local directors attending the quadrennial directors workshop, held this year at Ouachita Baptist University.

He said that for the next three years Southern Baptists are going to be involved in a Bold Mission Thrust effort to strengthen families and he challenged leaders to develop a growing understanding of family life.

Howell said part of achieving intimacy in a relationship is trusting the other person enough to let your real self come through. "Jesus said if you follow me you will discover your true self," he stated.

Christian families need to experience a sensitivity to meeting each others needs emotionally, sexually and spiritually, Howell explained. "Sometimes it is hard for religious professional people to be spontaneously religious with their families," he said.

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Howell outlined three basic hindrances to family intimacy that ministers experience.

The biggest factor is the "time trap" challenge. Ministry demands sometimes conflict with family commitments and break down family relationships. Many ministers are "at home physically, but not emotionally." Howell explained they get caught up in work, television and children, to the exclusion of their spouse.

Another factor in family breakdown is unrealistic expectations. "Families need goals to challenge growth, but just because you are a minister does not mean your family models need to be perfect," he explained. Ministers must be realistic and not let themselves get caught up in idealistic models for life, he said.

Thirdly, Howell said, unresolved anger is at the root of nearly every marital break-up. "When unresolved anger becomes internalized, resentment becomes a cancer that destroys relationships," he warned. Handling anger comes first by recognizing what you are really mad about and then separating the cause from the reason.

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Dixons Minister Where  
Devils Dance in Street

By Mike Creswell

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TRUJILLO, Peru (BP) — It is a city where devils sometimes dance in the streets.

Once every five years a procession of Catholics carries their beloved statue of the virgin of help from an outlying village into Trujillo. It is a well-established ritual that includes fireworks, flowers and a uniformed marching band playing mournful, dirge-like music.

A score of men and boys costumed like devils dance with the procession, while young women in their finest long dresses link arms to hold back hundreds of people crowding every side.

To South Carolinian missionaries, Rodolph and May Dixon, who work in Trujillo, the procession speaks volumes about the difficulty of starting new churches among a people whose beliefs blend Catholicism and local traditions.

But Baptists are making progress.

There are 10 churches and almost 20 missions or preaching points with more than 700 members in the city of 750,000. That's a healthy increase from just three churches when the Dixons arrived in 1968. The Baptist Theological Seminary for Peru, where 25 were enrolled in 1980, is in the city. There is a Baptist book store, with a choice location off the central square, and a student center adjacent to the national university.

Yet Baptists still are seen by most residents as a departure from the "true church," and Peruvians wanting to join a Baptist church often face opposition from relatives.

Dixon tells of a college student who accepted Christ recently and gave her testimony at Trujillo's Central Baptist Church. She said her friends asked why she wanted to get involved in that "imported religion with all of those imperialists, who are just trying to claim you for their capitalistic views and beliefs." She replied, "No, what they are talking about is what I need, and I need Christ as savior of my life. He is not just limited to one country."

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Evangelism is best conducted through the churches, Dixon says. Mass evangelism campaigns have had poor results. "People make public decisions very readily," he observes, "but they cannot be found the next day, and they don't even reappear for the services. The best results have to be seen at the level of reaching people personally and talking to them on a one-to-one basis."

Though he also teaches at the Baptist seminary, Dixon spends much of his time working with local pastors as a concerned equal; it is one of the things he likes best about his work. He sees himself as being a pastor to the pastors. For men often struggling to complete seminary training and serving churches that pay them only \$100 to \$175 a month, Dixon's advice, counsel and help are welcome.

"There is a movement of the Holy Spirit working in the people of Trujillo, and the people are looking for a change," says Julio Villar, pastor of the 350-member Central Baptist Church. "The Catholic church is not offering anything right now for the individual spirit. The individual is looking to the Baptist church as the only one that can really teach the Bible and direct people in their spiritual lives."

The Dixons have invested their years of ministry in the lives of leaders like Villar, and much of the hope for the future of Baptist work in the area rests with them.

The missionaries also have a strong commitment to long-term missionary service. "I firmly believe that if we have been able to accomplish anything, it has been the fact of being a neighbor, being a Christian neighbor, and being in one place long enough to show the basic commitment that we really want to live here," Dixon says.

There is a gritty determination visible when the Dixons talk of their reasons for working in Peru. And when devils dance in the streets, determination is a quality missionaries need.

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Adapted from Commission Magazine. (BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.