



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 16, 1981

81-193

Polish Borders Not Closed  
To Further Food Shipments

By John Wilkes

ZURICH, Switzerland (BP)--Although the declaration of martial law in Poland imposed Dec. 12 closed that country's borders, a Polish spokesman has assured European Baptists that food in any quantity will be allowed into the country.

A spokesman for the Polish embassy in Bern, Switzerland, said in a Dec. 15 telephone interview that any food parcels, in whatever quantity, even truckloads, will be allowed into the country with only customs verifications necessary.

"These would be really welcome in the present situation," the embassy representative said.

Knud Wumpelmann, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, said he is confident the latest relief shipment, a truckload of medicine worth more than \$39,000 but purchased for about \$13,000, already had reached its destination at Bialystok, where Polish Baptists operate a home for elderly people, before borders were closed.

In all, Baptists have sent six truckloads, mostly foodstuffs, to Poland. The European Baptist Federation and the German Baptist Union have spent \$260,870 for those shipments. The figure includes \$135,000 in hunger and relief funds from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Another truck was being readied for dispatch Dec. 18. Manfred Otto, administrative director for the German Baptist Union, said he will try to arrange for still another shipment to be made up immediately in light of reports of growing food shortages in Poland.

In a telephone conversation with Wumpelmann Dec. 11, Michal Stankiewicz, general secretary of the Polish Baptist Union, requested five tons of paper for Baptist publications. One ton, which was immediately available, will be shipped as soon as other priority traffic resumes, Wumpelmann said.

It is generally assumed that Polish Baptist churches held their services on Dec. 13 even though direct contact could not be established due to the communications blackout.

The 69-item declaration of martial law, which prohibited public gatherings, apparently did not apply to church worship services.

Polish embassy personnel, when asked specifically about church meetings, confirmed they were not banned.

## Georgia Hospitals To Keep Ordained Women Chaplains

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Hospital Commission will continue to employ female chaplains who are ordained ministers, the commission told the Georgia Baptist Convention executive board.

The commission's report was received by the board "as information only."

The issue of ordained women chaplains emerged during the 1981 annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention, when Mrs. Troy Morris of Americus, Ga., made a motion that no ordained female chaplain be paid after Jan. 1, 1982.

Mrs. Morris's motion was immediately referred to the Hospital Commission, and the commission included its decision to continue to employ women as chaplains when it reported to the executive board.

The commission quotes a legal opinion from its attorney, saying that federal laws against discrimination would not allow the banning of female chaplains who are ordained. The opinion also said such action could endanger hospital accreditation.

In other action, the board elected its second black staffer. William Flippen, who has been Baptist campus minister at Atlanta University, will become associate to Edward R. Davie, who has headed the department of black church relations for three years. Davie, who was with the convention 17 years as a part-time staffer, was the first full-time black staffer with the convention.

A record state mission budget of \$2,956,300 was approved for 1982. Approval came from the convention's executive committee in its annual organizational meeting.

The budget is an increase of 14.12 percent over the 1981 budget. Largest item in the budget is \$963,880 for the evangelism and missions division, followed by \$734,550 for the education division, \$599,640 for church services division and \$508,230 for administration division.

The Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta was given authority to change its bylaws to create medical staffs at satellite health care centers around the state. The Atlanta hospital has recently expanded into several small towns by buying or managing small hospitals and nursing homes as extensions of the Atlanta Hospital.

The hospital has also started an emergency helicopter network, to bring patients or medical supplies from these outlying towns, and from local emergency situations, to Georgia Baptist Medical Center in downtown Atlanta.

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Texas Newspaper  
Taped For Blind

Baptist Press  
12/16/81

DALLAS (BP)--Beginning in January, blind Texas Baptists will receive their copy of the Baptist Standard, journal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, on tape.

Through a special arrangement between the Standard and the church ministries section of the BGCT, a cassette tape will be provided free of charge to the blind.

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The tapes will be narrated by Carl Singer, manager of KCOB radio station, and will contain unedited readings of "a variety of the most prominent articles" from each week's newspaper, says Robert Parrish of the BGCT church ministries section.

"We're committed to ourselves in 1982 to take the total cost and we hope to continue that," Parrish said. "If we do have to ask for subscription fees in the future, we'll have a church pay it for the subscriber."

Texas is the fourth Baptist convention to begin such a service for the blind. South Carolina began the program about two years ago, and now North Carolina and Arkansas provide such a taped newspaper.

The first regular tape will be mailed Jan. 6.

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Missionary Child Dies Of  
Accidental Asphyxiation

Baptist Press  
12/16/81

SINGAPORE (BP)--Marilyn Morris, 13-year-old daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries Buddy and May Morris, died Dec. 15 in Singapore of accidental asphyxiation.

The Morrises, Oklahoma natives, said they went to check on Marilyn when they realized she was taking too long for her evening bath. They found her sitting in the bathroom, not breathing. She had turned on the wall-mounted gas water heater and apparently busied herself with other things while waiting for the water to get hot. Apparently, inadequate ventilation caused her to become sleepy and to be asphyxiated.

Appointed in 1965, the Morrises worked in Taiwan until 1968 when they transferred to Singapore. He is a general evangelist and she is involved in home and church work.

Marilyn is survived by her parents and two older brothers, Bruce and Gerry, both in the United States.

Burial will be in Singapore.

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Mission Volunteer Stricken  
By Paralysis-Causing Illness

Baptist Press  
12/16/81

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--Roy Church, a Southern Baptist extended service volunteer in Quito, Ecuador, has been returned to the United States after he was stricken by Guillian-Barre Syndrome, a paralysis-causing illness.

Church, 54, of Winston-Salem, was in stable condition in the North Carolina Baptist Hospital after he was flown by air ambulance from Quito, Dec. 16.

Guillian-Barre Syndrome, apparently caused by a virus, results in what usually is temporary paralysis. Medical experts say that 95 to 97 percent of the victims of the syndrome get over the paralysis.

The jet air ambulance, chartered by the Foreign Mission Board, was equipped with a respirator and staffed by two respiratory therapists. It was dispatched to Ecuador after doctors at Voz Andes Hospital in Quito and Franklin T. Fowler, the board's medical consultant, agreed Church should be returned to the United States to receive specialized care.

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Church's wife, Ruth, accompanied him on the flight home.

During the previous week Church had seemingly recovered from a three-day bout with a flu-like virus. Anticipating completion of their term and a return home before Christmas, he was building moving crates when he began experiencing a weakening in his arm and leg muscles.

Later that day, Dec. 12, he was hospitalized with paralysis in his upper and lower extremities. Within three days, the paralysis progressed into his chest, neck and shoulder muscles.

Church had been assistant to the treasurer of the Ecuador Baptist Mission since he and his wife arrived in Quito in May 1980. For the past few months he also was interim pastor of the English-Language Baptist Church in Quito.

Prior to going to Ecuador, Church was manager of a Winston-Salem furniture store. He is a member of Calvary Baptist Church. The church's pastor, Mark Corts, is a FMB director, and met the Churches when they arrived by air ambulance.

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Crane Keeps His Promise  
To Minister To Mexicans

By Bill Webb

Baptist Press  
12/16/81

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--James Crane has spent the last 50 years trying to live up to a commitment he made in elementary school.

He still remembers the hostile silence that greeted a Mexican youngster when he showed up to join Crane's seventh grade class at the Mathis, Texas, public school.

Mexican children were supposed to be content to complete the six grades of their own school in nearby "Mexican town," and the hostility in the classroom made an immediate impact on 11-year-old James Crane.

"I slid over in my desk and motioned to that boy to come and sit beside me," he says. "I made God a promise that if he would help me learn Spanish, I would give my life to try to make up to that boy's people for the way some of our people treated them."

Today, at 65, as Crane and his wife, Edith Carden Crane, retire after 36 years of mission service to Mexico, the record shows that the Texan was faithful to his commitment.

Crane, known throughout Latin America both for his teaching and his preaching, speaks Spanish flawlessly. He has written in Spanish eight books and other materials on preaching, evangelism, spiritual nurture and Bible study. His "El Sermon Eficaz" ("The Effective Sermon") has become a classic textbook on homiletics and his "La Reproduccion Espiritual" ("Spiritual Reproduction") is a widely used course for new believers.

Edith Crane has viewed her role as being a helpmate to her husband. While rearing four children in Mexico, she developed a reputation for her gifts in office-related skills and administration. A home economics major, she designed the floor plans for the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary, originally built in Torreon, but now located in Mexico City.

Though Crane has been active in evangelism throughout his mission years, he also has been president of the Torreon Seminary (1948-61) and field representative for middle America (1961-70).

From 1976 until the Cranes began their final furlough in July, he was a special materials writer and consultant, evangelist and devotional speaker stationed in Guadalajara. Currently, he is missionary-in-residence and visiting professor of missions at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

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Crane, already committed to preach at age 10, began studying Spanish in the ninth grade with the determination that he would preach in that language. He began preaching in Spanish "just on my own...but it was mighty poor preaching so pay wasn't involved," he says.

Crane ministered to Mexicans in Austin while a Spanish major at the University of Texas and in Fort Worth while a theology student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. For four years, he was pastor of First Mexican Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

The Cranes believe the future is bright for Baptist work in Mexico. They remember when Mexicans were resistant to the gospel, but they are grateful that is no longer true. "Mexico is wide open as far as the attitude of the people is concerned," Crane testifies.

"If a woman or a man has the spirit of servanthood and Christian love, and makes a sincere effort to learn the language, they'll put up with his mistakes as long as they can sense his spirit," he suggests.

The Cranes are confident their years in Mexico will continue to bear fruit through Mexican Baptists with whom they have worked.

"One of our students was just elected president of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico--Alejandro Zamora," Crane says proudly.

He and Mrs. Crane are retiring not to stop working but to pursue some other ministry goals.

"There is so much Spanish writing that needs to be done in the area of New Testament, discipleship literature and Bible teaching materials that we decided it would be better to make the change while we are still healthy," he explains.

He'll also continue preaching. Though he's equally at home preaching in English or Spanish, his eyes light up at the prospect of periodic preaching opportunities back in Latin America.

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

Gabhart Resigns  
Belmont Presidency

Baptist Press  
12/16/81

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Herbert C. Gabhart, 68, is resigning as president of Belmont College, effective June 1, 1982, and will accept a newly created post of chancellor.

A successor to Gabhart, who has been president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention-affiliated school since 1959, will be named prior to June 1.

The post of chancellor was created, according to Morris Early, chairman of trustees, "as a reward for his (Gabhart's) unselfish service and dedication to the college."

As chancellor, Gabhart will not be involved with the day-to-day operations of the college, but "will continue to serve Belmont by providing advice, counsel and supportive leadership," Early added.

Gabhart came to the school after serving as pastor of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, Ky., and the McLean Baptist Church in Memphis. When he came, the school had 360 students on campus and offered two degrees in nine areas of study. Now, the school has an enrollment of nearly 2,000 and offers six degrees in 35 areas of study.