



# -- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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January 20, 1982

82-10

Hurricane Blows Open  
Doors Of Opportunity

By Bill Webb

RB

LOS MOCHIS, Mexico (BP)--The same hurricane that battered hundreds of homes and killed dozens of people blew open doors of opportunity for Baptists in the west coast town of Los Mochis, Mexico.

"We can now have services anywhere we want," said Southern Baptist representative Mike Hull. "We are even showing Christian movies in the schools."

Southern Baptist representatives and local Baptists--working with municipal disaster relief officials--spearheaded efforts to provide shelter and food for the needy almost as quickly as the 90-mile-per-hour winds of Hurricane Lidia subsided Oct. 7.

As a result of their efforts, Baptists have been granted new opportunities to share their faith that have resulted in growing response to the gospel, according to Hull.

More than 300 persons have accepted Christ in Los Mochis and the surrounding area since the storm. Attendance at the town's two Baptist churches has nearly doubled with First Baptist running about 150 and Second Baptist about 70.

"First Baptist has three or four new missions and there are many more areas where people are asking for weekly Bible studies," Hull said.

In a recent joint service, the two churches baptized 21 new believers. At the same service, 36 Baptists committed themselves to work with the new missions and the new Christians.

Local efforts in the wake of the storm were bolstered by \$35,000 in SBC Foreign Mission Board hunger and relief funds and by 25 Southern Baptists from California and Arizona who repaired damaged homes and churches.

The volunteers, several of whom spoke Spanish, came in two groups to do construction and share their faith by day and assist in worship services in the evenings.

Hull believes the helping attitude of local Baptists and volunteers was contagious. Instead of waiting for the government to do for them, residents of the area tried to help each other.

"When we went to a village to deliver lumber, the people came to help us find the house, stayed to help us unload the lumber and witnessed to those who were watching," he said.

Church members helped prepare and distribute 2,750 food packets to some 12,500 people and contributed tar paper, roofing, nails, wood, cement and bricks out of their own resources.

The Baptist Association of Sinaloa State, with 10 churches and 32 missions, contributed \$400 to help buy food for the needy in two outlying towns.

The mayor of Los Mochis sent city water trucks to outlying areas where people were contracting typhoid and intestinal diseases from contaminated canal water.

An American businessman in Los Mochis, Jimmy Bell, became a Christian while the first construction team was there. He donated his time, truck, ladders and tools for repair work in the outlying villages.

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Stronger Church Role  
Needed in Family Life

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Ministers and religious educators have failed to help Christians understand how to have healthy marriages and family lives, an American Baptist sociologist charges.

Anthony Campolo, chairman of the department of sociology at Eastern College in Philadelphia, Pa., said, "The church has failed to tell people what love is and how it happens."

Campolo spoke to 70 theological educators from 28 countries during the Baptist World Alliance international conference on theological education in which sessions were built around the theme, "Confronting the Secular Challenge."

"The church has lent support to the idea that love is something that happens and it's either there or it isn't," said Campolo. "But Jesus talks about love as being willed and created."

Calling romance "a terrible basis for marriage," primarily because it's on-again, off-again, Campolo called for marriages based on companionship and a willingness to sacrifice one's own hopes and dreams for those of the spouse.

"There is no relationship between romance as sociologists define it and love as theologians define it in 1 Corinthians 13," said Campolo.

He said Christian lifestyle should include the abandonment of power for a servant role. Within marriage, Campolo said this results in mutual submissions.

"Marriages are becoming increasingly fragile. What is needed is not for women to abandon servanthood but for men also to adopt it," said Campolo. "What is needed in the contemporary culture is liberation from the craving for power."

Other factors he cited in the disintegration of family life were mass media images of the family, changing roles of children and the secular society emphasis on the individual doing only what is best for himself.

"This kind of individuality is a sickness," said Campolo. "We should be leading people to truly experience Christian community, the uniting of people committing themselves to each other and the work of the kingdom."

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Asian Urges Increased  
Cooperation Among Baptists

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Confronting the secular challenge in Asia will require increased cooperation among the Baptist groups there, the general secretary of Baptists in the Philippines believes.

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Domingo J. Diel Jr., was one of four participants at the Baptist International Conference on Theological Education who brought reports on the status of education in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

Diel, also coordinator of the master's degree program at Central Philippine University, Iloilo, called for the 24 Baptist groups with missionaries in the Philippines to work more closely together. He said he is encouraged that five groups have formed the Philippine Baptist Fellowship for that purpose.

Authoritarianism, militarism, materialism and political struggle are the four phases of the secular challenge in Asia, said Diel. "Living in the Asian context today requires more than memorized Bible verses. We have got to explain the reasons for faith and the truths in the verses," he said.

In Africa, Derek Mpinga said Christianity is growing through a primary emphasis on salvation. However, "we have been neglecting theological education," said Mpinga, director of academic affairs at Baptist Theological Seminary of Zimbabwe.

He said values of many governments in Africa reflect both traditional tribal beliefs and Christianity. "Christianity is not and should not become a state religion, but its influence should permeate all facets of government," said Mpinga.

William L. Hendricks, professor of theology and philosophy of religion at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., called secularity--giving attention to the things of this world--"a logical necessity" for Christians.

However, he said he believes that in the United States much popular religion "has veered into the heritage of secularism while academic theologians have veered toward a scholastic other-worldliness, with each side charging the other with its own sin."

He called "deplorable" situations in which the religious community says their eyes are on the world "by and by" when their eyes are very much on this world.

In Europe, Dafydd Davies said a need exists for training "evangelistic and able" ministers. Davies, dean of divinity at the University of Wales, Cardiff, said the secular challenge should be an integral part of discussions of theological educators with students and church members.

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Wheeler Accepts  
Morehouse Post

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Baptist Press  
1/20/82

ATLANTA (BP)--Edward L. Wheeler, associate director of the black church relations department for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was appointed executive director of Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, effective Jan. 1.

Wheeler also will continue in his board post through March 31, fulfilling previous commitments as consultant to educational ministries of the black church relations department.

Wheeler, at the board since 1974, succeeds Bobby Joe Saucer, who became Morehouse's chief administrator.

Morehouse School of Religion is a part of Interdenominational Theological Center, a consortia of seven black theological schools. Wheeler has been adjunct professor of Baptist church history at ITC since 1979, and also taught at ITC from 1974-77.

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Formerly the religion department of Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Religion achieved independence from the college in 1975, and continued as part of ITC. The school now receives support from churches and individuals affiliated with the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention of America. Morehouse School of Religion also receives Southern Baptist support through scholarships, joint conferences and in-kind services from the Home Mission Board.

About 300 students are enrolled at ITC, with Morehouse School of Religion enrolment boasting 65 students, said Wheeler, who added that ITC is the largest accredited black Baptist theological institution in the country.

A native of Long Island, N.Y., Wheeler is a graduate of Morehouse College and Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and is expected to receive a doctorate in historical theology in June from Emory University in Atlanta.

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Reagan Accepts Tithing,  
But Not Through Church

By Stan Haste

WB

Baptist Press  
1/20/82

WASHINGTON (BP)--While saying he believes in tithing, President Reagan acknowledged he does not give a tenth of his income through the church or other charitable organizations.

Asked during his Jan. 19 news conference if he plans to increase his contributions "to set an example to the rich people of this country to do more for the poor," Reagan said that while his tax returns do not show significant contributions to charitable causes, he has given money to individuals. Such gifts are not tax deductible.

Reagan said that "for a number of years" he has made such gifts to individuals and not to organizations, and added, "But my conscience is clear, as to what I have been giving."

Recent tax returns for the President and Mrs. Reagan, previously made public, show that in 1980 they made deductible contributions of \$3,089 on an adjusted gross income of \$227,968. In 1979 their contributions totaled \$4,108 while their adjusted gross income was \$515,878.

Although Reagan's response left unclear whether he actually practices tithing to individuals, White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said later the president was not making such a claim.

The one example of tithing Speakes offered dated to Reagan's days as a student at Eureka College in Illinois, when he asked his minister if giving \$10 of his \$100 monthly income to his unemployed brother would satisfy his obligation to tithe. The minister is said to have answered affirmatively.

The president also said his upcoming 1981 tax return will again show a small amount of deductible contributions but indicated he may begin this year "to be more public" in his giving "to avoid future questions of this kind."

While Reagan's personal giving habits had not been the subject of questions at other news conferences since he assumed the presidency a year ago, leaders of private charitable organizations have grumbled for some time that he should set a better example if he expects his pleas for increased funding for such groups from the private sector to be taken seriously.

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Reagan Underscores His  
Opposition to Abortion

By Larry Chesser *WB*

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Reagan reiterated his belief that abortion "is the taking of a human life," and his opposition to the practice even in cases where pregnancy is due to rape.

Asked during a news conference if he agreed laws should require even one of his own daughters to carry to term a pregnancy which had been caused by rape, the president deflected the personal part of the question but stated he would be "hesitant" to approve of abortion in rape cases.

The reason, Reagan said, was his experience in signing a law as governor of California which permitted abortions in rape cases. Reagan said he learned later that "gigantic loophole," had "literally led to abortion on demand, on the plea of rape."

The president, however, apparently misstated the primary "loophole" in the California law since most abortions performed under it were permitted by a provision allowing abortions when the woman's mental health was endangered.

Reagan only indirectly answered a follow-up question on whether he had rethought his position in view of the broad division in the religious community over abortion as well as polls showing most Americans favor freedom of choice in abortion.

Pointing to inconclusive Senate subcommittee consideration last year of a bill designed to declare that human life begins at birth, Reagan said the "real finding" of those hearings was "the fact that they could not resolve the issue of when life begins."

"If we don't know," he argued, "then shouldn't we morally opt on the side that it is life?"

Hughey Found To Have  
Cancer Of Pancreas

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AURICH, Switzerland (BP)--J.D. Hughey, director of Southern Baptist work in Europe and the Middle East for 18 years before his retirement Dec. 31, was diagnosed Jan. 14 as having cancer of the pancreas.

The diagnosis was made after Hughey entered Red Cross Hospital in Zurich for what was thought to be ulcer surgery. He will be hospitalized about two weeks. Then he and Mrs. Hughey expect to remain in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, for another week of recuperation before returning to Richmond, Va., where he will undergo further treatment.

Hughey, whose career as a Southern Baptist missionary and Foreign Mission Board administrator spanned 38 years, had just completed a tour of his 18-country area accompanied by his wife and was teaching this semester at Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon.

Foundation Awards  
Seminary \$500,000

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Baptist Press  
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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has received a \$500,000 grant from the Sid W. Richardson Foundation of Fort Worth, the largest single gift from a foundation in seminary history.

The grant will be used to renovate existing library facilities for more education space, according to Valleau Wilkie, foundation executive vice president.