

The logo consists of the letters 'BP' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a black circle. This circle is set against a larger black rectangular background.

- - 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
Craig Bird, 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
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 23, 1982

82-169

SEEDS Gets National
Honor on Today Show

By Patti Stephenson

NEW YORK (BP)--Two editors of a magazine published in the basement of a Georgia Southern Baptist church have garnered the top award for best magazine coverage in the first annual World Hunger Media Awards sponsored by entertainer Kenny Rogers and his wife, Marianne.

Gary Gunderson, editor and Tom Peterson, associate editor, won for their coverage of women and hunger in the February issue of SEEDS, a publishing ministry of Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga. The \$10,000 prize was one of six first-place awards in recognition of the best newspaper, magazine, film, television, photojournalism and book coverage of world hunger from July 1981 through June 1982.

SEEDS is the sole religious publication among the winners which include: newspaper--Ann Crittenden, New York Times; photojournalism--Kent Kobersteen, Minneapolis Tribune; film--Leigh Wharton/Barbara Gordon, Wharton International Films; television--Gene Reynolds, "Lou Grant", and book--co-winners Frances Moore Lappe, author of Diet for a Small Planet and John R.K. Robson, author of Famine: Its Causes, Effects and Management.

The awards were announced on NBC's "Today" show Nov. 23 and were presented at a ceremony held at the United Nations.

The awards are administered by World Hunger Year, a non-profit organization begun by the late singer Harry Chapin. In announcing a donation of \$1 million to fund the media awards, Rogers credited Chapin with arousing his concern for world hunger.

Observing public education is a "major key to the elimination of hunger," Rogers explained, "the awards program provides us with the opportunity to effectively encourage, honor and reward those journalists . . . who contribute substantially each year to the education of the public about (hunger) and its elimination."

SEEDS grew out of a hunger committee formed in 1976 at Oakhurst church. After producing several newsletters on hunger problems, members Gunderson and Andy Loving left their respective jobs as carpenter and probation officer to develop the church's hunger ministry full time without salaries.

The newsletter expanded to a magazine format in February 1979, with Gunderson as editor. Financial support from Oakhurst, 2,500 subscribers and a typesetting business now undergird a staff of six.

David Lockard, the Christian Life Commission's director of organization, who correlates the work of the Southern Baptist Convention's agencies in the annual World Hunger Day emphasis hailed the award. "This is a well-deserved recognition of the idealistic and highly motivated SEEDS staff which has consistently and sacrificially emphasized the grave moral issue of hunger," he said.

Nathan Porter, the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board domestic hunger consultant, said, "SEEDS has set the course" for Southern Baptist response to hunger and made a great impact in the larger circle of those concerned about hunger. The award, he noted, "should be a great source of pride for all Southern Baptists."

-more-

Oakhurst pastor Mel Williams praised SEEDS' "single-minded vision" in prompting Southern Baptists to take action against hunger. "SEEDS makes us see that in this rich world it do sn't make sense that millions starve," he said.

Beyond publishing, SEEDS includes an organizational network and educational ministry aimed at making Southern Baptists more aware of the causes and solutions to world hunger.

Convinced "people are moved to change by grace, not guilt," SEEDS' staff stress positive response. The ministry has helped increase Southern Baptist giving to hunger through the SBC's home and foreign mission boards and has formed local and state grassroots hunger committees.

Gunderson views hunger as the "single issue" all Christians can address across theological and denominational lines as well as a "window" which frames other human rights concerns. "Solving hunger is not just a matter of having the technology and dollars but a profound spiritual issue that won't change until the human community is mended," he said.

Confronting the question of hunger has caused some to label SEEDS as "radical," Gunderson acknowledged. But he defended SEEDS' responsibility to be "the gadflies standing apart as loving critics and asking the hard questions" of how Southern Baptists should respond to hunger.

Loving described as "ironic" SEEDS development during the same time a debate over biblical inerrancy has erupted within the SBC. "We take the Bible seriously too, only we see Southern Baptists aren't being true to scripture when it talks about the poor," he explained. "As a denomination we used to identify with the hungry because we were poor ourselves but not anymore."

Peterson observed, "Most of us Southern Baptists are isolated from chronic suffering which is a way of life in most of the world, rather than the exception it is here. But the Bible doesn't teach that Christ was isolated from hunger; he confronted suffering."

In five years Gunderson has seen hunger become a "true-blue Southern Baptist issue," he reported. "But I dream of the day when to be identified as a Southern Baptist means you care as much about hunger as you do about evangelism."

-30-

Students Increase
Mission Involvement

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press
11/23/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Participation in missions by Southern Baptist college students has increased dramatically in the last three years.

According to the Student Ministries Bold Mission Thrust Report compiled annually by National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board, student gifts to missions increased 11 percent during 1981-82 from \$897,031 in 1980-81 to \$996,154.

Since July 1978, students have contributed \$3,293,877 to missions, a 67 percent increase in three years, according to Charles Johnson, NSM secretary. "Southern Baptist student ministries are teaching students to give sacrificially to missions," he said.

Johnson noted students are not only supporting missions through their contributions but are also participating in mission projects. "One out of every 10 students involved in student ministry is involved in some type of short-term mission project," he said. "What would happen if every Southern Baptist program had 10 percent of its constituency involved in missions?"

One of the NSM three-year mission goals was to involve 15,500 students in community missions. Since 1979, 38,921 students have participated in community mission projects.

The Home Mission Board volunteer project, Mission Service Corps, has received wide spread support from students. Over the past four years more than 80 student directors have been enlisted through MSC. "That's significant when you realize there are only 350 volunteers in the total program," said Johnson. "Student work accounts for nearly 35 percent of the total program."

-more-

Not only are students actively supporting missions but they have more than doubled the NSM three-year goal of having one thousand evangelism projects, with a total of 2,475 projects.

On-campus evangelism projects include intensive witnessing efforts, Bible studies and music events such as concerts and singspirations. "These projects are not the same as student-led revivals," explained Johnson. "Last year students conducted 1,641 revivals and over the last four years students have led 6,578 revivals."

Other statistics show students have been responsible for starting 169 new churches or ongoing Sunday Schools.

The survey results also indicate that 130 black student fellowships were started last year, 80 more than the original goal of 50.

"Bold Mission Thrust is the heart of what student ministries is all about," Johnson said. "Strengthening missions and enriching the lives of students is what we have been about for more than 60 years," Johnson said.

-30-

CORRECTION--In (BP) story "Explosive Arkansas Convention Battles Over Moody, Junior College," released 11/19/82, the second paragraph is in error. Due to a restructuring of the Arkansas State Convention budget what showed up as a major decrease in Cooperative Program giving to the national level is actually an increase of .75 percent according to Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Last year Arkansas sent 43.07 percent of its basic budget to the national programs but excluded the challenge portion of the budget. Beginning with 1983 the entire budget is included so the 38.41 percent figure for 1983 is an increase. Therefore, instead of abandoning its 25-year plan to divide its receipts 50-50 with the national programs, Arkansas is still on schedule to reach the 50-50 mark by 1990 with an increase of .75 percent each year.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Foreign Mission Prayer
Week Emphasized At SWBTS

By Norman Jameson

Baptist Press
11/23/82

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Week of Prayer for foreign missions will gain renewed meaning for students, faculty and staff at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Nov. 28-Dec. 4.

This year the World Mission/Church Growth Center at SWBTS is coordinating a campus-wide information emphasis to increase prayer for foreign missions, to increase seminary family giving through local churches and to help student pastors plan prayer week emphasis.

Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. sent a personal letter to faculty members asking them to devote the prayer time at the beginning of each class to foreign missions and Nov. 3, Charles Tidwell, professor of church administration, led a special training session for student pastors on how to plan a Week of Prayer emphasis in their churches.

Through the close cooperation of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union, which promotes the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, students have distributed awareness information each week since Oct. 6, during daily chapel services.

In the 10 minutes before chapel during the Week of Prayer, Canadian student Robert Meister is coordinating "Open Eye" prayer time with slides and taped prayer requests from four areas of the world.

After each chapel that week foreign missionaries on furlough in the area will share answered prayers they've experienced.

-more-

Justice Anderson, director of the World Mission/Church Growth Center, will deliver a chapel message on the "State of World Missions" during the week.

"Many of us, years ago, caught the spirit of missions--not just in the classroom but in special weeks just such as this," said Monte Clendinning, conference coordinator in the World Mission/Church Growth Center.

-30-

Monro Sinks His Teeth
Into Keeping Sanyati Afloat

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press
11/23/82

SANYATI, Zimbabwe (BP)--John Monroe is an avid worker--some would say a workaholic--with a multitrack mind.

Otherwise he'd never keep the personnel-strapped Sanyati Baptist Hospital afloat.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed Monroe in 1971 to be a dentist in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia). But the 48-year-old Texan has had to be more versatile than that.

"We dentists are basically mechanics," he joked. "I guess that's why I can fit into all these roles." Monroe serves as administrator, pharmacist, dentist, business manager, purchasing agent and maintenance supervisor at the hospital, a landmark for Baptist work in the southern African nation over the years.

But now it faces hard times.

"Unless we can find at least one physician and other crucial personnel to serve at the hospital its standards will deteriorate and we run the risk of damaging its accreditation by the Zimbabwe government," explained Davis Saunders, the Foreign Mission Board's director for eastern and southern Africa.

The board has four physicians under appointment for Zimbabwe but the situation is critical at the Sanyati hospital. Giles and Wana Ann Fort work in the capital city of Harare, Maurice Randall is on extended leave of absence and Rob Garrett works out of Sanyati.

Garrett performs surgery at the hospital when he can but he's deeply involved in rebuilding desperately needed rural medical clinics destroyed in the nation's Communist-backed war for independence. Well-trained African medical assistants treat patients but need supervision by a physician, Saunders said.

Garrett has also been laying groundwork for a massive relief and hunger project Southern Baptists will establish to ease the plight of the Tonga people in the drought-plagued Gokwe area.

Monroe, who handles most of the chores a station manager would perform at the sprawling Sanyati Baptist compound, can expect some relief in several months when a hospital administrator arrives following missionary orientation. But he also sees a pharmacist and more nurses as vital personnel needs.

The Foreign Mission Board has sought these professionals, especially a physician, with limited success.

The hospital, formerly owned by the mission, has been turned over to the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe and is ending the second year of a five-year phase-out of Southern Baptist financial support.

The phase-out was initiated to allow the hospital's board to make its own decisions based on the realities of the Zimbabwe pattern of socialized medicine and dispensing of government aid to hospitals.

Meanwhile, Monroe and other Southern Baptist hospital personnel keep hanging in, trying to slow down deteriorating standards.

-more-

So he can continue to be everywhere at once in his 6 a.m.-until-whenever schedule, Monroe has trained his wife Mary as a dental assistant. He also has the help of African staff, three career missionary nurses and several missionary journeymen in maintenance, administration and bookkeeping.

Sometimes the task seems as endless as emptying the ocean with a thimble but hard work and perseverance are no novelty to the Monroes and other missionaries on the Sanyati Baptist compound.

Monroe's hectic schedule calls for him to change gears from drilling a tooth to repairing one of the station's invaluable water wells without a break. Then he meets with missionary journeymen Marty Escoe, who assists with administration and Mark Dewbre, the bookkeeper, to solve a foul-up in ordering equipment.

Word comes in the meantime that equipment has broken down on a ward, while in another section of the 1,500-person compound a sticky personnel problem needs attention. The pumping station under construction, sewage disposal problems and more equipment repairs will call for attention before the day ends. Even when the new administrator arrives there will be more than enough work for him and Monroe. The hospital will still need a missionary physician.

After guerrillas murdered Southern Baptist missionary Archie Dunaway in 1978 at the compound, most missionaries including the Monroes, evacuated the Sanyati area and moved to other duties in urban areas until hostilities ended.

But Monroe and Randall, braving the perils of war, drove or flew back regularly each week for about two years to minister to the people and keep the hospital going. A faithful African hospital staff made that possible.

They survived close calls because the guerrillas respected the need for their medical and dental expertise.

After all of that Monroe's not about to lay aside his "thimble" and watch the Sanyati Baptist Hospital sink.

-30-

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

Baptists Aid Victims
Of Honduras Landslide

Baptist Press
11/23/82

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (BP)--Baptists were among the first to aid victims of a landslide in Tegucigalpa that destroyed more than 150 homes. Two Baptist families lost their houses and almost all of their personal effects.

A shift in the earth's crust along a geological fault line was blamed for the landslide which occurred in a hillside slum area close to First Baptist Church.

Baptists from several churches helped missionaries Larry Elliott of Virginia and Jim Palmer of Georgia haul people and their belongings to shelters provided by the government. More than 8,000 people had to be evacuated.

Samuel Venis, pastor of First Baptist Church, helped distribute more than 14,000 square feet of black plastic which had been donated to help provide temporary shelter for victims of such emergencies.

As a result of Baptist participation one church was invited to show movies and hold services in one of the emergency shelters.

-30-