



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Baptists Team Up To Provide  
Food And Hope To Polish People

By Martha Skelton

WARSAW, Poland (BP)--Parcels of food, soap and other scarce items bought with Baptist hunger and relief funds are communicating a message of Christian concern to thousands of Polish people.

The much-needed supplies, bought in West Germany and transported by Polish government trucks to Polish Baptists and the Polish Ecumenical Council for distribution, have been arriving every two months in 1982.

By the end of the year 55,800 packages will have been delivered.

For many accepting aid is not easy. "We must take even though the Bible says it is better to give," said one pastor.

But they've managed to balance a responsible, orderly "taking" with individual and church-wide examples of giving part of what they have received.

One pastor in eastern Poland sets aside a shopping sack full of provisions delivered for him and his wife--to go to a former neighbor. In Warsaw Baptist parents ask their daughter to keep an eye out for schoolmates from large families that might have extra needs. She finds a friend and the family takes food to the home.

Other churches take part of their parcels to nearby hospitals or to homes for the elderly or retarded. Food also has been shared with those who keep foster children.

The relief effort, a cooperative venture involving the European Baptist Federation, The Baptist World Alliance and Southern Baptists, has given the Polish Baptist Union, begun in 1858, a higher profile in many communities.

"Before the crisis there were the big churches, Roman Catholic and Orthodox. No one paid attention to the Baptist church," says Jakub Ostaszewski, a member of the 32-member Baptist church in Narew in eastern Poland.

But townspeople in Narew noticed that Baptist relief went to each member of the congregation with some parcels being shared with neighbors.

"You have been remembered by your brethren," people told Ostaszewski. He credits this "pattern of brotherhood" with changing the status of the church in its community.

Alexander Kircun Jr., pastor of the 170-member Baptist church in Wroclaw, says this year has been "the most fruitful so far. Many people are looking for meaning in life." By October his church had baptized 20 persons and expected another baptismal service before the year's end. Baptisms this year across the country are double those recorded in 1981.

Southern Baptists alone have set aside more than \$1 million for Polish relief, about \$250,000 of which is earmarked to fund an experimental project to grow crops for chicken feed in an effort to revive the country's poultry industry.

The European Baptist Federation has provided \$260,870 (with \$173,000 of this coming from West German Baptists) and the Baptist World Alliance \$60,000.

John David Hopper, Southern Baptists' fraternal representative to the Baptists of eastern Europe, faced crucial decisions when the Foreign Mission Board allocated more than \$1 million in hunger funds for Poland in September 1981. He wanted the money to be spent prudently to buy as much food as possible. He wanted it to be sent to responsible people who would distribute it fairly.

Hopper found the answer to these needs in a West German Baptist, Reiner Klare, business manager for a social work agency supported by eight evangelical churches including the West German Baptist Union.

Through his contacts Klare has been able to purchase food and supplies at bulk rate. Contact with the Polish government produced the agreement to pick up transports of food and supply parcels in West Germany and deliver the goods at no cost to places designated by the Baptists and others involved.

At the end of 1982 about \$200,000 of Southern Baptist funds designated for general relief remained and Hopper will apply this toward 1983 Polish aid.

The project to revive the Polish chicken industry is a long-term one designed to contribute to permanent improvement of the country's food situation.

During the mid-1970s an industry of chicken farming and processing developed in eastern Poland around the city of Bialystok. The Polish government agreed to a loan from the United States for building chicken-processing plants and buying grain to feed chickens. In return Poland would buy American grains for the chicken feed.

The chicken industry had its problems but was beginning to produce poultry for much-needed protein in eastern Poland when martial law was declared late in 1981. Then the U.S. government stopped all trade with Poland and thousands of chickens were slaughtered early because there was no feed. Soon the industry died.

With little hope of getting scarce grain from Poland's Communist neighbors the prospects are bleak. As with many political moves the decisions are partisan, the deprived are people.

Mikolaj Prusak, 68, a member of the Baptist church in Bialystock, once raised 100,000 chickens a year. Now he has 200.

One of his neighbors, Baptist farmer Jerry Alimowski, 47, and his son are clearing land to prepare for a spring planting of strains of soybeans and corn which have proved successful in similar latitudes in Canada. This will be one of the first stages in the Baptist-funded project.

If these crops can be grown in Poland, ways of processing the grains and mixing them with other nutrients to make chicken feed will be explored.

For these men and others of the 7,000 who attend the Baptist union's 55 churches and 88 mission points the food parcels and pilot project are signs of hope.

And in Poland today that's a commodity as important as food.

Book Store, Open At Last,  
Makes A Splash In Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP)--The bookstore in downtown Kampala, Uganda, was in chaos--ladders, buckets, lumber strewn everywhere.

Display shelves, bought with Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds, arrived a foot taller than ordered and the drawers came with no bottoms. But the missionaries proudly placed three tattered, used books on the shelf--just to see how they would look.

Almost immediately a distinguished-looking stranger in an expensive-looking business suit walked in, examined the books and asked if he could buy all three. The sight was such an incongruity that later the bookstore personnel couldn't keep from laughing, said Jim Rice, bookstore manager. "But it is an indication of the response we can expect."

With the help of members from nearby Kampala Baptist Church the former supermarket is used as a place for personal evangelism and counseling. In the first two weeks of operation 10 persons accepted Christ and joined weekly discipleship training classes. The building also houses the Bible Way Correspondence School headquarters and mission, convention and student ministry offices.

The bookstore was a result of more than two years of hard work. A year and a half after the mission granted permission for missionaries Jim and Linda Rice to launch the bookstore they finally cut the red tape and rented the supermarket building about 300 yards from the church and one block from Makerere University.

Then the Rices, missionaries Larry and Sharon Pumpelly, mission volunteers Russell Pogue and Fred and Ruby Clarkson, Ugandan students and others turned into carpenters and remodelers.

On opening day, however, the bookstore itself turned into a refuge. When the Ugandan army and police, in large numbers and heavily armed, raided a building across the street looking for a band of car thieves people on the street took shelter in the bookstore.

Not one shot was fired but the store was introduced to more customers than expected.

Customer after customer has told the Rices and other missionaries how much the bookstore means to them. "It's a blessing to believers because this bookshop has deeper spiritual material than has been available in Uganda," Edith Mbabazzi declared.

The store started off with a good stock. Aided by Foreign Mission Board funds including \$6,500 from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Jim Rice bought 17,800 different pieces for sale including Bibles in 12 languages.

Items sell rapidly and the bookstore must constantly restock. It also needs more employees. A volunteer will fill in for Jim Rice as bookstore manager during his one-year furlough which begins in January.

Missionaries realize it won't be easy to make the store self-supporting especially with rapid currency fluctuations in the country. But already they see signs of the many different kinds of people it can touch.

Each day a stream of unlikely persons, such as Russian Embassy personnel, people from Sri Lanka and a scholarly old Moslem man who translated the Koran into the Luganda language, flows through. One day two Catholic nuns bought a stack of books.

They have a daily customer, too, a 14-year-old Asian Moslem boy who hungers for books even if they are Christian.

The missionaries want to be sure that he doesn't ever have to go away empty-handed.

William Marshall New  
KBC Executive Secretary

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--William Marshall, vice president for the office of human resources at the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., will be the next executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Marshall, 50, will succeed Franklin Owen who held the top administrative post in the KBC for 10 years. Owen will retire Dec. 31 but will remain as a consultant to the convention until June 30, 1983.

Marshall was elected unanimously by the executive board of the KBC Dec. 2, ending a 10-month search to designate Owen's successor. He will begin duties as secretary-elect in February and will officially become secretary-treasurer on May 1, 1983.

The new executive secretary is a native of Frankfort, Ky., and was educated in his home state. He attended Eastern Kentucky State College and Georgetown College on football scholarships and returned to Georgetown after a two-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps to complete his bachelor's degree.

He taught at the Baptist school in Nazareth, Israel, during the 1957-58 academic year and spent the following summer working and studying Hebrew at a kibbutz near Nazareth.

He received his master's degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in 1961 and joined the Foreign Mission Board as associate secretary in the department of missionary personnel in 1964 after being pastor of churches in Kentucky and Virginia.

From 1969 to 1976 he and his wife, Alice, were under appointment as foreign missionaries working in Cyprus, Lebanon and West Germany. During that time he was completing his doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary, graduating in 1974.

In 1976 he returned to the FMB as director of furlough ministries and assumed his present position in 1980.

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Lolley Seeks  
'Bold Diversity'

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ATLANTA (BP)--A strong plea for "Baptist boldness on behalf of unity in diversity" was sounded to Georgia Baptist Convention messengers by the president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Randall Lolley told GBC messengers, "your six Southern Baptist seminaries are magnificently unlike--just like Baptists are not alike. But they are together!

"Southeastern is not Southwestern. Never should be. Never will be. Two schools in two places as different as Wake Forest, N. C. and Ft. Worth, Texas, should be different," he said. Two schools comprised of different trustees, different presidents, different faculties, different students ought to have their own 'personalities.'

"God has not used a cookie cutter at Southern or New Orleans, at Midwestern or Golden Gate. But they are together. Together--but not alike! United through diversity!

"As we faithfully teach and learn the truth we know at the last that the truth will be its own best defense. Tell me, does this run counter to our heritage? Will it abort the mission? It hasn't! It doesn't! It won't!"

Lolley used II Timothy 2:14-21 as his text in calling for three "kinds of Baptist boldness needed now" he described as "three principles for Christians embroiled in controversy."

Principle one, Lolley said, is "do not fight over words."

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"Look at us Baptists, so embroiled in words about the Word. It is not enough to dispute over the nature of God's Word enfleshed. We chatter too much over the nature of God's Word enworded," he said.

"I believe Baptists believe in the authority of the Bible. They have said so, in many different words, at many different times.... Thus we need no longer to defend the authenticity of the scriptures or to debate their authority. What we need to do now is to study, learn, hear, proclaim, incarnate and obey the scriptures."

His second principle was "do something better than argue."

"Christians are to be kind because in Christ they belong to one another. As priests--each and all--Baptists must respect differing opinions and learn to disagree agreeably," he explained.

After calling by name leaders on both sides of the SBC "inerrancy" debate--Adrian Rogers, Bail y Smith, Jimmy Draper, Cecil Sherman, Kenneth Chafin and Duke McCall--Lolley thundered: "We do not have to have anybody's permission, under God, to believe as we must in our freedom of conscience. That is why I am a Baptist. And I suspect that is why you are a Baptist too."

Lolley's third principle for dealing with controversy was "do not be defensive," quoting vers s 9 and 19 of II Timothy 2.

He tied this to perennial attacks on theological seminaries. "Southern Baptists have six fine theological schools. Each one of them is dedicated to the same purpose--to equip God-called men and women for their ministries," he said. "This very day 20 percent of students enrolled in an accredited theological school in the United States and Canada are in your six schools. All enrollments are up this fall. What a mighty army!

"And they are being equipped too--perhaps better equipped than ever before--for their ministries. Several thousands of them are in training for missions at home and overseas. Baptists being serious about Bold Mission Thrust is their best hope for a job.

"Let's be bold," he said. "Let's live joyfully together in Christ."

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Golf rs Help  
Foreign Mission Board

Baptist Press  
12/6/82

ATLANTA (BP)--Golfers of north Georgia sent one of the first 1982 checks for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions to Georgia Baptist Convention offices.

They raised \$485 at the third annual Lottie Moon Golf Tournament held at Cherokee Golf and Country Club in Cedartown.

Thirty-two ministers paid entry fees which were given to the foreign missions offering. The golf club and the tourney sponsor, Gammage Funeral Home, donated meals.

The tournament is coordinated by two local Baptist ministers, Leroy Cooper of Oak Grove church and Larry Davis of Fairview church.

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