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Upheavals Part Of Life For Byrds In Guatemala

By Martha Skelton

DURHAM, N.C. (BP)--Reports of the recent governmental coup in Guatemala sounded like a familiar refrain to Harry and Jean Byrd.

Now in North Carolina on furlough, the Byrds have been Southern Baptist missionaries to the Middle American country since 1967. For them, upheaval is a part of the toll road to their chosen way of service.

And it is a toll road.

The Byrds came home to North Carolina in June with the toll of recent years in Guatemala reflected on their faces and physical conditions. Byrd, as mission president until his furlough, has had to deal not only with external uncertainties, but also with a major crisis in the Guatemala Baptist Convention.

The strain contributed to his several stays in a hospital before furlough--a furlough they postponed because of the need to stay and work. An asthmatic, Byrd has maintained his work load for the mission and has been interim pastor of a local church. But not without cost.

Jean Byrd has borne the emotional strain of supporting her husband while fulfilling her outside responsibilities. She was forced from her car at gunpoint when it was stolen (later recovered) during this last term. Their teen-age son, Emerson, narrowly missed an apparent kidnap attempt on a Guatemala City street.

But don't ask the Byrds why they stay. The real key is not why, but who.

Even before they went to the mission field, they faced some tough challenges.

"Harry, it's just like taking your whole family and putting it on the chopping block," his mother said when she heard of their missions commitment.

But he had felt God's leading to go. "There was a (missions) call," he affirms. "The call to preach was almost like the Lord touched me. This was more like a leading. The more I thought about the world's needs and really prayed about them, the more I felt this was what the Lord wanted."

Jean had struggled with the commitment to be a pastor's wife. Once that choice was made, "I gave up my right to run my own life," she says. "I accepted the Lord's leading in Harry's life as the lead for our family."

The Guatemalans alongside whom they work, and those who need to hear the gospel, form another compelling reason to stay.

Byrd, who has been active in theological education as former seminary president and now as extension teacher, recalls an incident several years ago in a seminar in a rural Baptist church.

"There was a pastor there I knew had to come part way by horse, part by a type of railroad and then walk," he says. "He had a little boy with him. The son could read and write and the father could not. So the son would take down the material.

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"That turned me on," the missionary says, smiling. "It was important enough to him that he'd gone that distance and was paying for his son so he could get it down."

Drawing on their spiritual resources, they stay.

"We've learned more about spiritual warfare," Byrd says. "Parts of the Bible take on new meaning." And Christian teaching says not to give just one time or several times, but over and over.

Mission policy is to let each family decide whether or not to stay in a given situation, and not to second guess each other's decisions. Their mission committed itself to "what God wants to do," says Harry. "The work he has done is great and we don't have time to be casting stones at each other."

This term, for the first time, Byrd checked about evacuation procedures at the American Embassy in Guatemala City. "They did develop a plan, really after things got better," he says.

The consular officer asked Byrd how long he had been in Guatemala. When Byrd told him 15 years, the man responded, "You need to be telling me what to do."

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Martha Skelton, associate editor for "The Commission" magazine, recently interviewed the Byrds in Guatemala City.

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

Hanschew, Belew Receive
1983 V.T. Glass Awards

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ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP)--Clarence L. Hanschew, director of the Savannah River Baptist Association in South Carolina, and M. Wendell Belew, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Missions Ministries Division, were named 1983 recipients of the Victor T. Glass Award for racial reconciliation.

The V.T. Glass Award, named for the retired HMB Black Church Relations Department director, is given annually by the Black Church Relations Department to honor persons who have made significant contributions in racial reconciliation. This year's awards were presented during the first Ministry Leadership Conference for state and HMB missions ministries leaders held in Asheville, August 5.

Emmanuel McCall, director of the HMB's Black Church Relations Department, presented Hanschew with the award for his work with blacks in the Beaufort, S.C., area and with residents of Daufuskie Island off the South Carolina coast. McCall lauded Hanschew's efforts to cross "difficult racial, cultural and geographical areas to minister effectively," and added that Hanschew "doesn't try to strip people of the cultural background or reflect on their religious practices, but he has been a friend in opening up larger areas of discipleship."

Hanschew has worked to insure Daufuskie Island residents receive fair prices for their land as its sold to make way for new resort establishments. He has also helped islanders find new economic opportunities with the tourist trade while at the same time providing leadership in Christian ministries, said McCall.

Belew was honored for his denominational advocacy in ministries to ethnics, minorities and blacks. McCall credited Belew with not only "sensitizing Southern Baptist leaders, but also being a personal practitioner of interracial ministry."

During Mississippi Baptist Seminary Founder's Day celebrations in March, a third V.T. Glass award was presented to Waudine Storey of Jackson, Miss. Storey was recognized for her work as G.A. (Girls in Action, a missions program for young girls) and missions friends consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union and as liason for Cooperative Ministries in Mississippi. She was the first person to establish a joint retreat for Mississippi National and Southern Baptists during the late 1970s, said McCall.

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Indonesia Hospital Decision
Expected By End Of Year

By Marty Croll

TANJUNGPURANG, Indonesia (BP) -- Indonesian Baptists are expected to decide by the end of the year whether to build a new mission hospital, even if the country's health department offers no assurance that Southern Baptist missionaries can work there.

The 50-bed hospital on the island of Sumatra would replace Immanuel Hospital, in Bukittinggi, which opened in 1975 and was sold to the Indonesian government under Moslem pressure six years later.

Construction at the new site has been delayed for more than a year, while Baptists waited for the government to tell them how long missionary doctors and nurses could stay in Indonesia. National Baptists are asking that missionaries be given enough time to teach Indonesians how to minister through the hospital.

But, Baptists now are considering action without government assurances, said missionary Leon Mitchell, treasurer of the interim building committee, an eight-member committee evenly represented by nationals and missionaries.

"The decision will probably be made within the next two to three months," Mitchell said. "We just can't keep dragging this thing on."

After many months of negotiating, he added, the possibility is emerging that Indonesian officials might never make an official ruling on the presence of Southern Baptist medical workers in the country.

The health department ruled in 1979 that all foreign medical personnel must be out of the country within five years. It was unclear, however, whether the five years dated from the time of the ruling or the time the personnel first arrived in Indonesia.

Despite the ruling, Baptists had hoped they would be given enough time for missionaries to teach nationals to effectively run the hospital, if they decided to build it. National Baptists have been negotiating with the government for a reasonable transition time and an interpretation of the ruling.

In the agreement to relocate Immanuel, Indonesia paid Baptists more than enough to replace Immanuel with a new facility on about seven acres outside Tanjungpurang, where Baptists have worked since 1969.

More than a year and a half after the sale of Immanuel to the government, Southern Baptists still have two missionary doctors there. Baptists run the day-to-day medical operations of the hospital, but there is a government administrator.

Missionary ties were scheduled to end March 31 of this year, but government officials are not pressing the issue since Baptists have been awaiting the health department ruling before they would begin construction on the new hospital.

Some Moslem leaders had opposed the Christian influence brought to the Bukittinggi area by Immanuel. The hospital barely escaped destruction in 1976, less than a year after it opened, when 34 sticks of TNT didn't go off as planned. Controversy about Immanuel has somewhat dampened evangelism in Bukittinggi.

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CORRECTION

In BP mailed 8/9/83, in "Wake Forest Gets \$700,000 Estate Gift" make first paragraph read: "Wake Forest University has received \$700,000 from the \$4 million estate of Minnie Huffman Reddish of Morganton, N.C., who died in 1978." This corrects the name from Minnie Huffman, as sent, to Minnie Huffman Reddish.

Thanks, BP

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Marital Instability At An
All Time High In 1980'

By Charlene Shucker

ATLANTA (BP)-- A high degree of marital instability remains in United States society, according to the final report on divorce for 1980 by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Abstracted by Home Mission Board research director Orrin Morris, the report says the number of divorces granted was at an all time high of 1,189,000.

The degree of instability differs widely from state to state, with the divorce rate per 1,000 population ranging from 2.9 in Pennsylvania to 17.3 in Nevada, according to the report.

The ten states with largest number of divorces in 1980 are California, Texas, Florida, New York, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

States with the lowest divorce rates in 1980 are Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, North Dakota, New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Morris attributes the low rate in these states to the religious and cultural backgrounds of its residents and legal climates that grant divorces for very precise and limited reasons.

Roman Catholics appear to be a major factor in Massachusetts, New York, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, while major European immigrant groups strongly defended by family patriarchs are a major factor in Pennsylvania, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, he added.

There appears to be a relationship between growth in population and divorce rates. Most states with high divorce rates experienced high rates of increase in population from 1970 to 1980, he said.

According to Morris, there is a relationship between population change and the number of divorces in three of the top ten states. California led the nation with a 3.7 million gain in population from 1970 to 1980. Texas was second with a 3.0 million gain and Florida third with 2.9 million.

During that same period California had 133,541 divorces; Texas 96,809 and Florida 71,579.

The relationship of residential relocation to frequency of divorces appears to be a two-way relationship. Residential relocation is a destabilizing event for many married couples. States experiencing large numbers of immigrants are likely to experience large numbers of divorces. Further, states experiencing rapid rates of population growth reflect the relationship by high divorce rates.

Secondly, the legal climate of some states invites people desiring a divorce to establish tenur . Nevada is the classic example of this process, but divorces in this state numbered only 13,842 --about one-tenth as many granted in neighboring California, Morris said.

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Baptist College Tuition
Ranges From \$1,900 To \$6,120

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
8/11/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Students at Southern Baptist colleges and universities this fall will find the annual cost of tuition and fees ranging from \$1,900 to \$6,120.

While those figures appear to be high, they are much closer to the costs found at public institutions than one would expect, said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission.

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"Hidden factors play an important role in equalizing costs between public institutions and Baptist colleges. Most private schools do not charge out-of-state tuition as their public counterparts do. Financial aid also often is more easily accessible to students at Baptist colleges," Walker said.

According to figures released by the College Scholarship Service and published recently in The Chronicle of Higher Education, the \$1,900 charged for tuition and fees (excluding room and board) by Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Ga., is the lowest of any Southern Baptist college.

The University of Richmond in Richmond, Va., has the highest rate, with an annual cost of \$6,120.

In comparison of states with more than two Baptist colleges, Virginia has the highest average cost. Students attending Averett College, Bluefield College, University of Richmond and Virginia Intermont College will pay an average \$3,871.50 in tuition and fees with a low of \$2,276 at Bluefield.

South Carolina's four Baptist colleges (Anderson College, Baptist College at Charleston, Furman University and North Greenville College) have an average cost of \$3,617 ranging from \$2,690 at NGC to \$4,828 at Furman.

In North Carolina the average cost of their seven colleges (Campbell University, Chowan College, Gardner-Webb College, Mars Hill College, Meredith College, Wake Forest University and Wingate College) is \$3,573 with a low of \$2,615 at Chowan and a high of \$5,050 at Wake Forest.

Mississippi's three Baptist institutions (Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College and William Carey College) have the lowest average cost at \$2,402 ranging from \$2,190 at BMC to \$2,736 at Mississippi College.

Texas, with eight Baptist colleges (Baylor University, Dallas Baptist College, East Texas Baptist College, Hardin-Simmons University, Houston Baptist University, Howard Payne University, University of Mary-Hardin Baylor and Wayland Baptist University) has the next lowest average at \$2,763. The costs range from \$2,245 at Wayland to \$3,348 at Houston Baptist.

Baylor, the largest Southern Baptist college in the nation, has an annual cost of \$3,095 for tuition and fees.

Other states with at least three colleges and their average costs include Alabama (Judson College, Mobile College and Samford University), \$2,848; Georgia (Brewton-Parker College, Mercer University, Shorter College, Tift College and Truett-McConnell College), \$2,861; Kentucky (Campbellsville College, Cumberland College and Georgetown College), \$2,963; Missouri (Hannibal-LaGrange College, Missouri Baptist College, Southwest Baptist University and William Jewell College), \$3,163 and Tennessee (Belmont College, Carson-Newman College and Union University), \$2,819.

Walker attributes the variancy in costs to a number of factors: "The wide range is the result of several factors including geographic influence on the cost of living for faculty members," he said. Geographic location also affects institutional energy costs.

Other factors in tuition costs include the amounts contributed to the colleges by their respective state conventions and monies available at the colleges for institutional scholarships.

Walker is optimistic in that Baptist schools have tended to keep costs in line with inflation. "The increase in costs at Baptist colleges and universities has been much more in line with inflationary trends than most people are aware. The funds families have today for education at Baptist colleges are in direct proportion to what previous generations had to spend," he said.