

**(BP)****BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 5, 1984

84-54

News Analysis**Vatican Mission Foes  
Faced Stacked Deck**

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--Failure of U.S. religious leaders to derail a White House/congressional express delivering full diplomatic relations with the Vatican lies more in the obstacles they faced than in shortcomings of their efforts.

A significant group of U.S. religious leaders--including Southern Baptists--vigorously opposed formal U.S.-Vatican ties, but the Senate showed little hesitation in confirming William A. Wilson as ambassador to the Holy See.

Although 13 senators voted against confirmation--mostly because they disliked the decision to establish full diplomatic relations with the Vatican and not because of Wilson's qualifications for the post--none of them opposed it enough to block a unanimous consent request to bring up the issue for a final vote during the middle of the Senate's school prayer debate.

Subsequent approval by House and Senate appropriations panels of funding for the full Vatican mission completed the reversal of the nation's 116-year-old policy against official diplomatic ties with the Holy See.

This reversal occurred despite nearly uniform opposition from mainline Protestant and fundamentalist Christian leaders, along with significant opposition from American Catholic leaders who feared the move would permit the Reagan administration to pressure U.S. bishops through the papacy.

One question raised by these developments is why, confronted with such significant opposition, did the change go through Congress with such relative ease?

Several factors contributed.

First, the Vatican ambassador debate of 1984 produced nowhere near the firestorm reaction that occurred in the early 1950s prompting President Truman's nominee for the Vatican post, Gen. Mark Clark, to withdraw his nomination. During the past 30 years, the anti-Catholic sentiment which fueled the outcry against Clark's nomination has been greatly diminished by two events--the second Vatican Council and the nation's generally positive experience with its first Roman Catholic president, John F. Kennedy. Also, this reversal of long-standing U.S. policy has been further aided by the personal popularity of Pope John Paul II.

But Congress, particularly the Senate where most of the responsibility for the shift lies, may have misread current opposition to the move by measuring it against the intense opposition of 30 years ago.

On the other hand, some evidence suggests the general public, including religious segments, may not have matched the opposition expressed by religious leaders. A little circulated Gallup poll conducted in late January indicated the percentage of Americans who favored establishment of full diplomatic ties led opponents by a 57-24 margin.

Percentages of support from various religious groups ranged from Catholics who favored the move by a 79-11 margin to Southern Baptists where 37 percent favored the move while 36 percent opposed it.

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Whatever the degree of opposition from the general public and religious groups, it came into play too late in the process to matter much.

By the time any congressional committee heard from public witnesses on the issue, the 1867 ban against formal diplomatic ties with the Vatican had been quietly repealed, the Reagan administration had established diplomatic ties with the Holy See and Wilson had been nominated as U.S. ambassador.

The normal time for public input on the issue would have been before the ban was repealed. But that opportunity was preempted when Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., successfully attached a rider lifting the ban to a State Department authorization bill.

No hearings had been held on either side of Capitol Hill when the Senate agreed to the Lugar amendment as routinely as it regularly handles noncontroversial items such as a resolution supporting the Women's History Week.

While more than one senator acknowledged the amendment was added without their noticing it, Lugar insists senators had ample opportunity to repeal it because the State Department bill did not clear the Senate for nearly a month.

Nonetheless, the short-circuited process drew some attention. Sen. Roger W. Jepsen, R-Iowa, one of the 13 who voted against Wilson's confirmation, said his vote was a way of registering his disapproval of what he considered an abuse of the legislative process.

"Hearings should have been held first because of the great deal of concern among Americans about the constitutional question of recognizing what is essentially a religious state," Jepsen said.

The bottom line is that when Lugar's Foreign Relations subcommittee heard from religious community witnesses opposed to establishment of diplomatic ties with the Vatican during Wilson's Feb. 2 confirmation hearing and congressional funding panels heard from the same witnesses at hearings on funds for the new diplomatic mission, it was all but too late. Establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Holy See had been an accomplished fact since Jan. 10.

Not to be forgotten is the administration's role in securing this change. Like five of his predecessors, Reagan named a personal envoy to the Vatican early in his term. Although the administration refused for weeks to state its intentions after the 1867 ban was repealed, there was little doubt about the President's intention to pursue full diplomatic ties.

As early as last April, the administration signaled its desire to upgrade Vatican relations by asking evangelist Billy Graham to assess the likely reaction of evangelicals to such a move. Graham's role came to light in a Chicago Sun-Times article.

In addition to such arguments by the administration that the Vatican would provide the U.S. a good diplomatic "listening post," another apparent factor in the White House push on this issue was Wilson's influence on Reagan. Wilson apparently disliked being at the back of Vatican reception lines, explaining to a San Diego audience in January that as personal envoy he was unable to sit with other diplomats at Vatican functions. As U.S. ambassador, he will move to the head of the line.

With a recent history of diminishing anti-Catholic sentiment, a short-circuited, fast track legislative process and determined administration support, it is no wonder many U.S. religious leaders gave their best shot and came up short on this one.

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BTN Success To Bring  
Local Church Success

BSSB-N

Baptist Press  
4/5/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The success of BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network) will benefit local churches across the Southern Baptist Convention, Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder told state BTN coordinators.

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"Anything we do together which makes BTN successful is making the local church work successful," he said."

The Sunday School Board's network to Southern Baptist churches, scheduled to begin broadcasting this summer, was the subject for an update seminar in which state BTN coordinators and media library consultants from across the SBC were participants.

Elder said his dream is to see BTN efforts aimed at church development and growth to help achieve Bold Mission Thrust, the denomination's goal to present the Christian gospel to all persons by the year 2000.

"What if we together could design BTN to help build 14,000 churches and Sunday schools by 2000 A.D.?" he asked. "What if there is a way to use this as a tool to begin Bible studies, to reach a million people a year in discipleship and baptism?"

Calling for "a new sense of identity for this great denomination of ours," Elder said Southern Baptists need to re-educate themselves in communications. "We need to be still looking each other in the eye, to have more visibility with each other."

Through BTN Southern Baptists can see Bill Tanner (president of the SBC Home Mission Board) and Keith Parks (president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board) and understand their spirit about missions as well as their verbal message, Elder said.

"The church is an educational institution in the finest sense of the word," he said. "When I help to make BTN successful, I'm going to alter and shape lives. I want to do that through the printed page and through the electronic page. Whatever the method, our business is to tell the story of Jesus Christ. That's why we're providing BTN."

Observing some persons may feel the vision of and commitment to BTN came "before its time," Elder said he is hearing "an increasing number of people saying not only can we do it, but also we've got to do it. We're building something that's new and worthwhile that can transform the lives of our children."

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C-N

Baylor Men Asked  
To Remove Posters

Baptist Press  
4/5/84

WACO, Texas (BP)--Men students at Baylor University have been asked by the Baptist institution's president to remove any posters having to do with drugs, alcoholic beverages or photographs demeaning to women from their dormitory rooms.

Herbert H. Reynolds sent a personal request to each of the men's dormitories.

"I am now appealing to your basic goodness and your desire, I believe, to always take the high road in life, and to not adorn your walls with unseemly posters of this sort," Reynolds wrote. "This is not becoming to you as young adults and fellow Christians, and it is not becoming to our men's residence hall system and Baylor University as a Christian institution which strives to achieve high ideals.

"I am counting on you to respond to my message and I believe you will do so."

In mid-January the dean of men at Baylor issued a ban on such posters but in early February Reynolds announced he was rescinding the ban which had been instituted without his knowledge. Reynolds explained Baylor's stance toward alcohol and its opposition to degrading women by displaying lewd photographs is well known.

However, he added, "It is important...our student body know we are reasonable people and can readily differentiate between those matters which may bring lasting harm to their lives and those which are relatively harmless and of a transient nature.

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"I think the ban was well-intentioned but it equated the poster with the deed. If you cry 'wolf' enough on things, then pretty soon what you have to say doesn't amount to much."

Last fall Baylor cracked down on alcohol use and placed three social fraternities on probation until August 1985.

The poster controversy was precipitated by a photo in a Houston newspaper accompanying a story about Reynolds' opposition to alcohol consumption by Baylor students. The photo showed two students in their dorm room which was adorned with what appeared to be a centerfold poster of a nude woman and other posters which advertised alcoholic beverages.

Reynolds said the personal request of the students, "was more effective than an unenforceable edict. We can't search every dorm room every day."

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Mass Distribution Scriptures  
To Be Available June 1

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
4/5/84

BSSB-N

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--With an initial printing of one million New Testaments for mass distribution sold out and orders still coming in, Baptist Sunday School Board officials announced plans to have one million more copies available by June 1 through Baptist Book Stores.

"The enthusiastic response of our Baptist people to mass Scripture distributions has necessitated our developing a fast track for printing and distributing inexpensive, at-cost New Testaments to meet the needs of churches," said Lloyd Elder, BSSB president.

The first printing of marked New Testaments was a custom order by the Baptist General Convention of Texas for use April 8 in a statewide Scripture Distribution/Prospect Discovery Sunday. This was the largest order ever received by the board's Holman Bible Publishing division for a single product.

By March 31, a total of 1,055,162 copies had been sold to Texas churches and Holman had returned orders for 53,000 copies which could not be filled.

Johnnie Godwin, Holman division director, said, in the meantime, churches in six other states sought to place orders which also could not be filled.

The Great Commission New Testaments, which will be available June 1, will be marked editions for witnessing and are similar to the Texas edition, Godwin said. They will be available in the King James Version, the New American Standard Version and the Nueva Vida Version (Spanish).

"Costs include paper, printing, binding, assembling, warehousing, shipping, royalties on newer translations and other costs involved in such large production efforts," said Godwin. "Although paper, printing and other costs will continue to go up, our commitment is to make available inexpensive, at-cost Scriptures to the churches."

The one million Great Commission New Testaments will require 586,000 pounds of paper which will be delivered from Alabama to a Nashville printing firm in 15 trailer loads.

The New Testaments may be ordered through Baptist Book Stores and Mail Order Centers. Orders of 2,500 or more copies will cost 37 1/2 cents each plus shipping. Orders of 1,000 to 2,499 copies will cost 40 cents each plus shipping.

Purchases of 999 copies or less may be made at slightly higher prices directly from the book stores.

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Bill Graham, director of the book store division, said the temporary distribution system through Baptist Book Stores and Mail Order Centers was set up "to make these New Testaments available as quickly as possible. We have worked with Holman to sell these at prices that are at cost or below," he said.

Mass Scripture distribution editions will be listed on the Church Literature Order Form beginning April 1985.

Two other major mass Scripture distribution projects are in process, Godwin said.

The Missouri Baptist Convention has ordered 500,000 customized New Testaments from Holman for a statewide project. Also, Holman will publish five million New Testaments and one million Scripture portions for the 1985 Evangelistic People Search and Prospect Cultivation and Scripture Distribution being planned by the state conventions with the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board as preparation for the 1986 Good News America revivals.

While Bible publishing is already an assignment of the Southern Baptist Convention to the Sunday School Board, Elder said a proposal that Bible publishing be made a separate program of work of the board will magnify the assignment.

The proposal, which would increase the number of program assignments of the board to 17, was approved by the BSSB trustees Feb. 2 and by the members of the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 21. It will be presented for consideration of the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo., in June.

"My dream and my prayer is that this new venture in Bible publishing will be a key factor in enabling Southern Baptists to expand into a national strategy for Bible distribution as a part of Bold Mission Thrust," said Elder.

Elder praised the efforts of Godwin, Graham and "others within the Sunday School Board who worked together to develop a fast track approach to provide Scriptures to churches."

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Bill Murray Asks  
Prayer For Mother

By J.B. Fowler

Baptist Press  
4/5/84

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--William J. Murray, the son of America's most famous atheist, Madelyn Murray O'Hair, told an Albuquerque audience April 2 Jesus Christ had changed his life.

Speaking at Central Baptist Association's Invitation to Life Crusade at the University of New Mexico arena, Murray told the audience how he was saved at 33, after having been reared in the home of "America's most hated woman."

Speaking at the crusade sponsored by 36 Southern Baptist churches in the Albuquerque area, Murray gave his testimony to more than 3,000 people present for the second night of the crusade. He said when he was 14 his mother took him out of a Baltimore school because they had daily public prayer. She then used him as the plaintiff in a lawsuit in which the Supreme Court eventually outlawed public prayer in the nation's schoolrooms.

In a press conference immediately preceding the crusade meeting, Murray told members of the press his mother revelled in being called "America's most hated woman." When asked about his mother's attitude about God and the Bible, Murray said, "She did not have a conception of the gospel. She practiced witchcraft and went to church twice a year."

Although Murray said that his mother "won't speak to me," he confessed he still loves her and prays for her conversion. But, Murray added, "She will not speak to anyone who holds to a faith in God."

Murray left home as a young adult because he could no longer stand the hatred and violence that permeated the home. Taking a job with an aviation corporation, Murray climbed the corporate ladder but failed to find happiness.

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"I came to the realization that there had to be something," he told the receptive audience. When he later was transferred to San Francisco, Murray continued the search for someone or something to fill the emptiness in his heart. The reading of Taylor Caldwell's fictionalized account of the life of Luke, titled "Dear and Glorious Physician," pointed Murray in the direction of Christ.

One night, he related, he dreamed about a book that could help him find peace of heart. Getting up and dressing, he went to an all-night department store in San Francisco and purchased a copy of the Bible, which soon led to his conversion to Jesus Christ.

Murray, a member of Gateway Baptist Church in Dallas, now heads Murray Ministries, headquartered in the Dallas suburb of Garland, Texas. The ministry is primarily directed at atheists. When Murray learns of a meeting of atheists that will be taking place somewhere in the United States, he and his group set up a witnessing operation in that city as close as possible to the atheists' meeting place.

"The whole idea," Murray told the Albuquerque audience, "is to get people who have not heard of the gospel...to Jesus Christ.

"The same miracles that changed the lives of men and women 2,000 years ago are available today," Murray said. Then, in closing his testimony, he referred to his mother as "just another 65-year-old white-haired lady who needs Jesus and I would ask you to add her to your prayer list, that she might find Jesus."

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House Panel Approves  
'Equal Access' Bill

By Larry Chesser

Baptist Press  
4/5/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House Education and Labor Committee, led by its powerful chairman, Rep. Carl D. Perkins, D-Ky., has overwhelmingly approved "equal access" legislation sponsored by Rep. Don Bonker, D-Wash.

With Perkins making no secret of his intention to get the bill to the floor, the committee voted 30-3 in favor of the measure, H.R. 5345. The full panel agreed to language approved a day earlier by the Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary and Vocational Education (also chaired by Perkins) which consisted of the bill originally introduced by Bonker (H.R. 4996) with only minor changes.

Essentially the bill says federally funded secondary schools which permit "groups which are initiated by and composed of students to meet during non-instructional periods," can not discriminate on the basis of the religious content at such meetings.

The "equal access" provisions of the bill apply only to meetings which are "voluntary and student initiated."

The committee-passed bill also provides that teachers and other agents of the school or government may be present "only in a non-participatory capacity."

Teachers and other school employees are also protected under the bill from being compelled to monitor a student religious meeting "if the religious content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the religious beliefs of the agent or employee."

School districts violating students' "equal access" rights would be barred from receiving federal funds, but Perkins and Bonker have readily acknowledged their intention to opt for a judicial remedy contained in a similar Senate measure if H.R. 5345 passes the House and goes to conference with a Senate-passed version.

The Senate bill, S. 815, is sponsored by Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore. In addition, a more far-reaching proposal, S. 1059 sponsored by Sen. Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala., has cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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Hous sponsors of the Bonker measure elected the administrative cutoff funds over a judicial remedy to avoid having the bill bottled up in the Judiciary Committee. They now hope to get a quick floor vote on the bill.

No action has been scheduled in the Senate, but Majority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., has assured Hatfield equal access legislation will be considered this year.

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SBC Day Camp  
Set For Kansas City

*Brotherhood  
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Baptist Press  
4/5/84

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Brotherhood Commission will again sponsor a missions day camp during th Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Kansas City June 12-14.

Boys and girls who have completed grades 1-6 are eligible to attend the day camp which will be held at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., about twenty miles from the Kansas City Convention Center.

Missionary speakers, crafts, games, nature trails and sports are planned. Transportation to and from the convention center will be provided, as will snacks and lunch.

Registration for the day camp will begin Monday morning, June 11, at the day camp booth in the registration area of the convention center. Children will participate in the day camp all day Tuesday and Thursday and half a day Wednesday.

Parents will leave their children at a designated place at the convention center beginning Tuesday morning and pick them up at the close of the afternoon sessions Tuesday and Thursday and at the close of the morning session Wednesday.

Camp cost is \$7 per person per day or \$20 for three days for one child. For two children in the same family the cost will be \$40 for three days; and for three children in the same family the cost for three days will be \$55. The cost covers insurance, supplies, two lunches, snacks and the charge for the campsite and transportation.

The Brotherhood Commission, along with the Missouri State Brotherhood Department and the Blue River (Kansas City) Baptist Association, is sponsoring the missions day camp.

Karl Bozeman, Crusader Royal Ambassador director for the Brotherhood Commission, is day camp coordinator.

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Cross Only Way  
To Peace: Wallis

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Baptist Press  
4/5/84

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--"The greatest evangelistic question in the church today" is whether or not it will be "converted from the bomb to the cross," Jim Wallis says.

Wallis, editor of Sojourners magazine and pastor of the Sojourners community in Washington, delivered the annual Clarence Jordan Institute Lectures at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Wallis said: "With a world nuclear arsenal equal to 1.6 million Hiroshimas, we have all become expendable. The future itself has become expendable.

"We have tried to take the power of life and death into our own hands. The situation is an unprecedented crisis and it is up to the church to stand up now and say 'No!'."

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He added: "Don't let anyone tell you peace is merely a political issue. The peace of which we speak today is the peace for which Jesus died. There is no peace through strength, balance of terror or military superiority. There is only peace through the cross."

Wallis was selected to deliver the Clarence Jordan Institute Lectures for his work with the Sojourners community, a Washington-based group concerned with poverty and peace. The lectures were established in 1969 in memory of Jordan, a Southern alumnus whose life and ministry were dedicated to helping those oppressed by racial prejudice and poverty.

Noting today's concern for the poor and world peace is a breakthrough bringing hope to the world, Wallis said: "Something is starting today in American churches. I believe we are on the edge of something significant. The Gospel is coming alive in a very meaningful way. It is time for an altar call."

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HMB-F

Egyptian-Born Missionary Reaches  
California's Middle-Easterners

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press  
4/5/84

SANTA ANA, Calif. (BP)--Each Sunday, approximately 450 Arabic Southern Baptists gather for worship in 18 churches and missions scattered across California. Yet more than 3,000 Moslems in Orange County alone recently attended services on an Islamic holy day.

Khalil "Charlie" Hanna, an Egyptian-born catalytic language missionary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, faces an uphill climb as he coordinates Southern Baptist ministries among Middle-Easterners in California.

"Sure it gets discouraging and frustrating," Hanna admitted. "There is always so much to be done. But I love the work here, and I just have to trust the Lord to help me."

Trusting the Lord is a way of life for Hanna, but it was not always so. As a teenager in his hometown of Fayoum, Egypt, Hanna had concluded "there was no reality, no power to religion" and seriously contemplated suicide.

In 1956, when war broke out between Egypt and Israel, his fears multiplied. When his sister told him of a meeting at a Baptist church, Hanna went, but could not understand the Baptist terminology.

He returned several weeks later and heard an Egyptian preacher. This time, he understood. "The Lord touched my heart at that meeting," he recalled. "He gave me peace."

That decision launched Hanna on a pilgrimage which eventually led him to the Baptist Seminary in Beirut. After graduating in 1964, he became pastor of an Arabic Baptist church in that war-torn city. In 1976, he and his family immigrated to the United States where Hanna became pastor of a small Arabic Baptist church in Santa Ana. In 1980, he was named a full-time catalytic missionary.

Ministry among Middle-Eastern people has grown from two small missions to the present 18, each sponsored by an Anglo church. In the process, Hanna has come to appreciate the difficult circumstances that led him to America.

"At the time, I didn't really know what God was doing with me in Lebanon," he said. "But now I see he was equipping me to reach Middle-Eastern people who come from different nations here to America."

No one really knows how many Middle-Eastern people live in California. Attracted by the favorable climate, they immigrate by the thousands. Hanna estimates 200,000 Arabs live in the metropolitan Los Angeles basin, representing as many as 11 different nations.

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Regardless of nationality, Hanna reaches out through a variety of methods. He preaches, leads Bible studies, translates Bible study materials--"nationwide he's the only source of Arabic-language materials we have," said HMB Language Missions Director Oscar Romo--and plans youth conferences and other events, including an annual fellowship of Middle-Eastern Baptists that draws people from across the United States.

Hanna spends a lot of time just looking for the Arabic population. Then he surveys, hoping to find a Christian family who can be trained as a "base" for a Bible study, his most common approach to beginning ministry.

At other times, he piggy-backs on special meetings or revivals in Anglo churches in areas with significant Arabic population. He invites prospects to a Bible study.

"The key is to find the right way to attract people, then to find a good leader to build the work," he said. That person must be "reliable, hard-working and spiritually mature."

One such discovery was Daniel Manook, a computer programmer from Iraq. Fluent in five languages, Manook, with Hanna's support, started a Bible study. Now, he leads a mission for Armenian Christians. Another layman, Fairs Zeito, an engineer, helped start a Bible study among Iraqis in Van Nuys.

Hanna devotes much of his time to developing an Ethnic Leadership Development center. Training lay leaders among various Arabic groups is "probably our biggest need right now."

Hanna is praying for an Iranian Baptist who can help begin a ministry among large pockets of Iranians. "I know there's a person like that out there somewhere," Hanna said.

And if persistence and faith are what is needed, Charlie Hanna will find him.

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(Adapted from the January-February issue of MissionsUSA, the Home Mission Board's magazine)  
(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press

Missionary To The Elderly  
Lives Among Shut-Ins

By Clay Renick

Baptist Press  
4/5/84

ATLANTA (BP)--Rose Austin was silent as Mary Andrews slouched in her wheelchair and stared out the living room window of the Techwood housing development.

"I thought I was going to die the other night," Andrews said. The 65-year-old paralytic occasionally gets dizzy and, when she falls from her wheelchair, is unable to pull herself up. "I just said 'God--help me to pull through. I don't want to go to the hospital now.'"

"When you get like that, call me," urged Austin. "You have my number."

Andrews usually does call her--at least seven or eight times a day--"to talk about when her husband was alive" or a recent telephone conversation she had with someone else.

For the past five years, Austin has worked at Techwood Baptist Center as a self-supporting volunteer with Mission Service Corps, a Southern Baptist program.

Austin retired after 21 years with the United States Department of Agriculture and now lives on her pension in the Palmer House high-rise for low-income elderly.

Most Palmer House residents are just looking for someone who will talk to them, Austin said. "Many are afraid of people. The only reason they leave is if they die or go to a nursing home."

Monday through Thursday, Austin works in the Techwood Center emergency food bank. She locates bulk food and loads individual grocery bags with a carton of eggs, loaf of bread, five-pounds of cheese and five-pounds of powdered milk for families in need.

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On Friday and Saturday she shops for groceries, picks up prescriptions and does laundry for 13 Palmer House shut-ins.

When 87-year-old Palmer House resident Jessie Lord slipped on a throw rug and broke her leg, Austin went over to make her bed and cook dinner.

Austin helps residents maintain their households any way she can, even if only by emptying their trash or bringing a loaf of bread. "Otherwise, a case worker from the Atlanta Housing Association would come in and say 'These people need to be in a nursing home,'" she said.

Austin's example has rubbed off on Palmer House residents like Doris Rowe, 59, confined to a wheelchair by an industrial accident. Like Austin, Rowe runs errands for other shut-ins and even got a traffic ticket in her wheelchair once when she tried to outrun an approaching storm. "I was trying to go to the store before the storm came," she said. "I needed some groceries."

She also needed more room on the sidewalk. But when she jumped the curb and wove her way into traffic, a siren wailed from behind her. "It was either pay the \$10 ticket or spend two months in traffic court," she sighed. "I paid."

Terry Moncrief, who directs the Techwood Baptist Center, said no one from Palmer House visited the center the first seven years he was there. Then Austin arrived.

"The Lord has used Rose as a bridge to the center," he said. "Those people needed someone to reach out and care."

Austin takes the ministry home with her each night when she leaves the center, crosses the street and climbs the steps of Palmer House.

"I'm happier than I've ever been," she observed. "When I was working it was too much of a struggle. And when I retired I was too idle."

She likes to visit her daughter and granddaughter each year, but finds it hard to squeeze out the time. "I'm too busy to get lonesome," she explained.

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(Renick is a student at California Baptist College in Riverside.)