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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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85-112

Baptist Team From South Africa  
Braves Danger To Deliver Aid

By Mary Jane Welch

DURBAN, South Africa (BP)—An international team of Baptists living in South Africa braved a dangerous road into Mozambique to deliver food, clothing, seeds and soap to needy people.

Team members from South Africa, the United States, Portugal and England traveled a road which had been the site of a guerrilla attack the previous week to deliver 50 tons of corn meal, 10 tons of sugar, five tons of beans, 12,000 bars of soap, 1,000 sets of vegetable seeds, many boxes of clothing and other food and supplies.

Mozambique was one of the first African countries to witness thousands of starvation deaths during the African drought. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says conditions there have improved but warns some food shortages will persist for at least another year.

In Mozambique, two Brazilian Baptist missionaries and members of First Baptist Church, Maputo, helped distribute about half the goods to needy members of the church and its fellowships in surrounding communities. Most of the rest was distributed to needy people in communities designated by the Mozambican government. Small amounts were set aside for uses such as the new theological college opening in the building of the Mahlanguelene fellowship.

Men, women and children eagerly grabbed loaves of bread as team members distributed them on the streets, said Dwight Reagan, Southern Baptist missionary who served with South African Indian pastor Patrick John as co-leader of the trip. Many children began devouring the bread as soon as they got it, he said.

Sometimes the press of the crowd made further distribution impossible and the team had to move to another area, he said. Many crowds were orderly, but even the soldiers keeping order retreated to the safety of a truck when one group of women saw soap was available. The women had watched calmly as corn meal, beans and sugar were unloaded.

Many expressed gratitude for the Baptist gifts. Christine Helps, a British citizen who became a Christian while living in South Africa, said, "It was such a joy going out to distribute food and preach, even if we did need the protection of the soldiers.... One man couldn't believe he was receiving a bag of sugar. He shook it to be sure that's what it was. When a woman received her maize meal she put it onto her head and began dancing in gratitude."

The team overcame several obstacles to make the trip. The biggest obstacle--fear of guerrilla attack on the road--was faced with prayer by team members and supporters in Natal Province and elsewhere.

The 13 team members also faced difficulty in finishing distribution because visas for eight more team members had been denied by the Mozambican government. Those who went included eight South African Baptists, a Portuguese Baptist missionary, two British citizens who had become Christians while living in South Africa, and three Southern Baptist missionaries, Mark Morris of Memphis, Tenn., and Dwight and Lila Reagan of Houston.

The international character of the team was reflected also in the sources of gifts taken into Mozambique. Southern Baptist hunger relief funds provided \$15,000 to buy food and the Baptist Northern Association in South Africa forwarded funds from the Baptist World Alliance. A number of Natal churches gave both funds and goods.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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Nashville, Tennessee

The children of one Sunday school bought and sent three huge cans of peanut butter. Children in another Sunday school class collected clothing. One church sent toothpaste, soap and clothing. One Southern Baptist missionary couple in Kenya, Nathan and Vickie Corbitt, learned of the mission and sent a gift.

The team went to preach and to help strengthen the Mozambican churches, as well as to help the needy, said Reagan. They were pleased to discover a new fellowship at Boarne where a similar team had delivered food and preached a year earlier.

At each distribution point, the team held an evangelistic service before distributing goods. They worked with First Baptist Church, Maputo, which has started eight new fellowships in the Maputo area and three in other areas since 1975.

Some communities were unresponsive to the gospel, but most people listened attentively, even in deep concentration, said Reagan.

One very tall young man at Boquisso listened with a deep frown and wrinkled brow. "I thought he was strongly opposed to the gospel," said Reagan. "But when his family was the first chosen to receive food his doubting frown unraveled into a broad grin. As the truck drove away he was the last to offer a powerful departing handshake."

Team members already are making plans for a similar trip next year, said Reagan. One South African Indian pastor called this year's trip the "highlight of my whole Christian experience." He's not only making plans to return, but has some of his church members asking to go, too.

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Anti-Pornography Groups  
Meet In Cincinnati

By Suzanne Darland

Baptist Press  
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CINCINNATI (BP)--Pornography "has escalated in the past 10 years," ABC-TV producer Ken Wooden told the crowd of 350 who attended the third National Consultation on Pornography in Cincinnati Sept. 4-6. Photographs have gone "from the missionary position to ritual abuse."

Representatives of 70 denominations, including Southern Baptists, were told the pornography industry "is changing sexual attitudes" and harming countless women, teenagers and children. In tightly guarded "men only" or "women only" rooms, conference participants browsed through hard- and soft-core pornography. They saw pictures that included violent sex, sex with children and sex with animals.

The executive director of the National Coalition Against Pornography which sponsored the meeting said afterwards most churchgoers have an "ostrich" attitude when it comes to pornography. "I don't read it; I don't buy it; so I stick my head in the sand and ignore it," said Richard E. McLawhorn.

The Southern Baptist attorney said he "broke" when he saw "blasphemous cartoons" in many magazines as well as the graphic sex depicted.

Carl B. Turner, a Chicago gynecologist and executive recording secretary for the Illinois National Baptist State Convention, agreed. "Eighty percent of our people are not fully informed," he estimated. "Many still think pornography is occasional nudity. They don't know the whole connotations of things like Satanism and bestiality."

Donald E. Wildmon, a United Methodist minister who founded and is head of the National Federation for Decency, threatened a boycott against advertisers.

"After this fall, we're prepared to join in a well organized boycott," he said. He cited the heads of 69 denominations who have signed a "Statement of Concern" sent to television networks. Those names include the executive directors and presidents of 17 state Southern Baptist conventions.

Former Southern Baptist Convention presidents Adrian Rogers and James T. Draper Jr. are on Wildmon's advisory board.

Coy Privette, twice president of the North Carolina Baptist Convention and now a state legislator there, said more Baptists are not involved in anti-pornography organizations because they lack "guidance and leadership of what to do." He noted the strong anti-pornography resolution passed by the convention in Dallas this summer was indicative of the "thinking of Baptists."

Privette was instrumental in enacting a state law cracking down on pornography which prohibits X-rated theaters and bookstores; bans from public display "adult" magazines in stores minors are allowed to enter, and prosecutes cable pornography.

In South Carolina a Southern Baptist pastor, Lewis Abbott, has organized a coalition of area leaders which meets with chief executive officers, advertisers as well as legislators, persuading them to see the effects of unchecked pornography.

A major goal has been for the group to appear "mainstream" and "legitimate," he said, since "demonstrating (with signs in front of local convenience stores to get them to remove pornographic magazines from the racks) is not going to solve the problem."

At stake in most discussions about pornography are First Amendment rights guaranteeing free speech. But conference speakers pointed out the Supreme Court also has set guidelines about what constitutes obscenity and about a community's right to establish standards of decency.

A few days prior to the consultation, Cincinnati police confiscated 1,200 copies of the September issue of Penthouse magazine, at the instigation of the coalition, McLawhorn said.

The issue, which had nude pictures of rock star Madonna as its cover story, also depicted a lesbian encounter. A Cincinnati judge believes the graphic photos could violate the city's obscenity law.

Cincinnati pornography fighters boast a high success rate. Every X-rated movie house or bookstore that once operated in the county is gone. The Playboy cable channel is not broadcast in the area. Hustler magazine, published by Cincinnati Larry Flint, is virtually banned from the city. No X-rated videotapes are sold in Hamilton County.

Cincinnati's example was held up at the conference for other cities to emulate, as other speakers explained why pornography has gained such a toehold in the nation's imagination.

"The god of pornography is sexual perversion and money," said William F. Kelly, a retired special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Kelly said the money made in pornography and resultant prostitution was staggering.

"The going rate is \$1,000 per encounter with an 11-year-old," said Wooten, who as an investigative reporter for CBS-TV's 60 Minutes in the 70's broadcast several segments on "kiddie porn." Pornography means advertising young children for prostitution, he said.

"Lust continues and continues to devour us," testified Brenda MacKillop, a one-time Miss Virginia and former California Playboy bunny who now lives in San Pierre, Ind. She said she read her father's Playboy magazines as a child and grew to accept their philosophy of pleasure-seeking. She said she took part in an orgy at the Hefner mansion, and ultimately found herself "becoming suicidal."

Cline said studies have shown "when males become immersed in pornography it becomes addictive." They seek, "rougher, more bizarre pictures," then eventually begin acting out the things they have seen.

Wooden mused the time was right for community outcry over X-rated movie houses and hangouts for pornographers. "We need to mobilize our health departments," he suggested. Noting the epidemic spread of AIDS should sound an alarm over the casual sex depicted in pornographic magazines.

McLawhorn said his group had much success convincing convenience store owners to stop selling their "adult" fare by simply showing them the contents of the magazines.

And Abbott, who received the coalition's distinguished service award during the consultation, advised attendees to seek support among community leaders for their cause. He said "any decent person" would support a broad coalition that agreed in purpose.

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(Suzanne Darland is a correspondent for the Western Recorder, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.)

Child Hurt In Tanzania Crusades;  
12,657 Make Professions Of Faith

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KYELA, Tanzania (BP)—An accident marred evangelistic crusades in Tanzania but failed to stop services which resulted in 12,657 people making professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

On the sixth day of the five-week crusades during August and September, Southern Baptist missionary Doug Knapp of Lakeland, Fla., ran over a nine-year-old boy who fell off the back of Knapp's pickup truck. Knapp, missionary in the 1,000-square-mile Kyela District, was leaving a school and was unaware several children were attempting to climb into the back of his truck.

Knapp drove the child to the nearest hospital, an hour's drive away. On the way he met one of the volunteers helping with the crusades, physician David Holder of Winter Park, Fla. Tire marks could be seen on one side of the boy's body and there was a large cut on his head.

After the boy had been treated, Knapp reported to the police and was asked to surrender his vehicle and driver's license. He was allowed to continue with the crusades, but others on the evangelistic team of 12 Southern Baptist volunteers and two Tanzanian pastors had to double up and do more driving than anticipated.

Team members experienced a sense of "overwhelming relief and joy" when news came later during the crusades that the boy, Leo Bushanga, had been "miraculously healed and would be released shortly from the hospital," reported Knapp's wife, Evelyn, press representative for the Tanzania missionaries. Knapp's car and license were returned and no charges were filed.

Meanwhile, crusades which had gotten off to a slow start began showing impressive results. Twenty-eight people made professions of faith the first day; 59 came forward on the second. But on the fourth day, 1,084 made professions and team members later reported 1,487 professions in a single day. By the time the first of two teams of Americans left for home, 8,651 people had made professions of faith and 1,087 had made rededications of faith. Team members baptized 654 people.

A second team of three Africans and nine Southern Baptist volunteers from Lake Wales and Hollywood, Fla., tallied another 4,006 professions of faith during the last weeks of the crusades. Hundreds of those were schoolchildren who, along with some headmasters and teachers, made spiritual decisions when team members spoke in their schools.

One school headmaster, Paul Mwambijoke from Kipoki school in Tukuyu, was recruited to translate by an African who believed Mwambijoke was a Christian. But the headmaster made a profession of faith after listening to one of the crusade preachers.

More than 10,000 people in U.S. churches had made commitments to pray for the crusades, said Mrs. Knapp. Several churches which sent volunteers set up around-the-clock prayer chains for the entire five-week crusade period.

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

King Of Norway Awards Medal  
To Former Missionary Anderson

By Erich Bridges

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FLEKKEFJORD, Norway (BP)—King Olav of Norway has awarded the Saint Olav's Medal for distinguished international service to former Southern Baptist missionary Kitty Anderson.

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The medal, bestowed on Norwegians who render outstanding service outside of Norway or make the nation known abroad, represents national recognition of Anderson's four decades as a missionary, nurse and teacher in China, Hong Kong and the United States. A royal representative presented the medal to Anderson during an Aug. 20 ceremony in Flekkefjord, Norway, her birthplace and hometown.

Anderson's scheduled Aug. 22 meeting with King Olav himself was postponed until next year because of an illness the king was suffering.

"It was a most unexpected event," said Anderson, 69, who now teaches with her husband, former missionary Maurice Anderson, at the Christian Witness Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., an interdenominational school for Chinese pastors. "It's something the king doesn't give readily. The Baptists told me that it will help their work in Norway a great deal....I've had countless opportunities to explain why I am a Baptist."

Friends and admirers of Anderson in Norway and the United States urged King Olav to consider her for the medal. Their efforts resulted in a comprehensive survey of Anderson's life by the king's staff. The king personally makes final decisions on such awards.

The presentation ceremony in Flekkefjord turned into a town celebration. Though Anderson left Norway at age 13 to go to the United States with her mother after her father's death, she has returned often to Flekkefjord over the years. "She is one of ours," said local resident Kjell Svindland, who presented Anderson with flowers on behalf of the community.

Anderson, the former Kitty Tomstad, is known in Norway for another reason. Her brother, Gunvald Tomstad, became a national hero during World War II as one of the leading Norwegian resistance fighters against the Nazis. He died in 1970, but a delegation of his former comrades helped congratulate Anderson at the Flekkefjord festivities. "It was so touching because these men faced death with my brother," she said. "And a strange thing happened. A letter written to me by my brother surfaced after 42 years. He wrote it when he was in England (during the war) and it couldn't be mailed because of security reasons. And here one of these men had gotten hold of the letter and presented it to me."

As a young woman, Anderson studied nursing in the United States and married Southern Baptist pastor and educator Maurice Anderson of Louisiana in 1943. The two were appointed missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and worked in Hawaii during the final years of World War II. They worked for several years in south China before the communists took power, but spent the bulk of their missionary careers in Hong Kong.

There she began a clinic for refugees pouring in from mainland China which eventually became Hong Kong Baptist Hospital. She also led Baptist relief efforts to provide medicine, food and clothing for refugees throughout Hong Kong.

Both Andersons played key roles in starting Hong Kong Baptist College. He led as vice-president and dean from 1956 to 1970 and she directed health and nutrition services for the students. Later she taught and counseled students after earning advanced degrees in anthropology and clinical psychology.

She never lost touch with direct ministry, said longtime friend Virginia Boyd Connally, a Southern Baptist physician from Abilene, Texas. "I met Kitty in Hong Kong in January 1964. She with her young son had spent Christmas day unpacking boxes of used clothing and various gifts for the poor and needy," Connally wrote in a letter to King Olav. "Her small office had such limited space that she made use of some of the boxes for chairs.... Kitty seems to have one speed--full speed ahead. Her one purpose in life is to spread the gospel, in words and in deeds."

Personal health problems finally brought the Andersons back to the United States in 1970. But both continued teaching, first at Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe and later at California Baptist College, Riverside. She also taught and directed social services at Harbor View House, a psychiatric hospital in San Pedro, Calif.

A volunteer assignment with the Foreign Mission Board took the Andersons to Scotland for a year in 1982-83. They joined the Christian Witness seminary staff in Berkeley last year.

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION