



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(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. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

May 21, 1985

85-64

Too Many Small Caskets:
Fighting Hunger In Brazil

By Mike Chute

ITAPORANGA, Brazil (BP)—There have been too many funeral processions in northeast Brazil in the last five years. And too many of the caskets have been small ones.

Sickness and disease run rampant in the Sertao region. Regardless of the illness, doctors usually give the same diagnosis: hunger. Babies are seldom named before their first birthday. Parents don't want to become too attached to "it."

The Sertao is an inland stretch spanning five states. When it's dry, there is drought. When it rains, there is flooding. The cycle has transformed the area into a desperate center of poverty in Brazil. Unless there are drastic climatic changes, the United Nations predicts the region will become a desert within the next century.

Southern Baptist missionaries, supported by hunger funds provided by Southern Baptist churches in the United States, are fighting to break that cycle. They've just completed the first year of a five-year "Living Water" project in seven counties at the heart of the stricken area. Some 100,000 people live there.

The entire project will carry a price tag of more than \$3 million. In 1984 "Living Water" received almost a quarter of all the Southern Baptist hunger funds sent to eastern South America. The ambitious main objective: to provide water for five major cities which previously had no water system.

"Brazil is the only country in which Baptist relief efforts have gotten involved in municipal water supply systems," said John Cheyne, Foreign Mission Board senior consultant for human needs ministries. But no funds are being channeled through the government. "It is a Brazilian Baptist project in cooperation with our missionaries," he explained.

The people of the region are subsistence farmers, living "from hand to mouth," said agricultural missionary Jerry Smyth, who works in the Bahia stretch of the Sertao.

"The cities have no industry, no factories, no artisan workers," adds missionary Ed Trott, "Living Water" project director. "Nearly all of the men of the region work as hand laborers because they have no profession."

The people are almost fanatically tied to the land. When the food runs out, as it always does, the sons leave town in search of work. Soon the fathers go, too. Most of the homes have no male presence. But when the rains come, all return as quickly as they can.

Electricity came to the area four years ago. But pure water is yet to be realized. The new governor of Paraiba state has made it a priority, however. That's where the "Living Water" project is making its greatest impact.

The overall effort includes several sub-projects. Second in importance is the "Bread for Life" project. It involves an experimental farm for training farmers in more effective production techniques. Sixteen families are taught for a year. Then they're given seven acres of land of their own. After three years they'll begin to pay for the land. Those funds will go back into buying more land for others.

None of the first families in the program were employed. "They were destitute," Trott said. "But they want to work and they want to learn."

—more—

The project also has opened several factories to give people jobs. They include brick, clothing, animal ration and canning factories, plus a fish hatchery and beehives. Chicken, cattle and goat farming also figure in the program. All these industries are designed to be self-supporting within five years.

Baptist community centers have opened in three cities--Itaporanga, Conceicao and Pianco. As a ministry of the local Baptist congregations, the centers provide health care, child care, education, legal help and training. Brazilian Baptist home missionaries staff the centers, which are designed to meet the people's basic needs.

Nearly 100 percent of the people are Catholic. "But after five years of Baptist work in Itaporanga, we have the acceptance and respect of the community as evangelicals," Trott said.

Two Baptist churches and one congregation now meet in the area, which had no Baptist work just a few years ago.

--30--

Chute is a missionary press representative in Brazil.

FMB Taps Human 'Encyclopedia'
For New Foreign Mission Book

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
5/21/85

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Winston Crawley probably has as clear a picture as anybody of the way Southern Baptists share the gospel with the world.

Crawley, vice-president for planning at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has written a book, "Global Mission," which explores "our understanding of what missions is all about." The book will be released June 3 by Broadman Press and will be available in the Baptist Bookstore during the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-13, in Dallas.

At the foreign board's home office in Richmond, Crawley is known not just as the senior administrator in length of service, but as a "walking encyclopedia" on all facets of Southern Baptist foreign missions--past, present and future.

R. Keith Parks, the board's president, asked Crawley to write "Global Mission" because Crawley has "a clearer grasp of the principles and methodology (of Southern Baptist foreign missions) than anybody else who's active today."

Crawley's extensive experience in missions began in China in 1947 and 1948. When the communist government came to power, he moved to the Philippines where he worked until 1954, when he became the Foreign Mission Board's secretary for the Orient. Additional responsibility, as director of all overseas work, came in 1968. In 1980, he changed jobs again to focus on missions planning.

"People are always calling this office about anything in connection with the board," Eris Anderson, Crawley's longtime secretary, said. "They think if Dr. Crawley doesn't know, nobody knows."

Parks sees "an authenticity" to the new book, beyond what might be produced in an academic setting. He said Crawley has been involved in doing missions and shaping policies to help others be involved.

Parks said a concern that "Southern Baptists do more in missions yet write less about it" is another reason he asked Crawley to write the book.

"Global Mission" focuses on major schools of thought among Christian strategists and "how our Southern Baptist approach may agree with them, modify them or differ with them," Crawley said. The book is oriented toward a wide-ranging audience of Southern Baptists--current and future missionaries, students in seminaries and Baptist colleges and missions-minded pastors and lay people.

--more--

Crawley hopes the book will help each reader "understand Southern Baptist foreign missions better and do a better job of it," whether one is working overseas or undergirding a local church's prayer and Cooperative Program support of global evangelism.

"There are a lot of things in the book that would have been helpful to me when I was serving as a missionary," Crawley said. He ultimately learned the various lessons—"gradually over a period of years."

For example, "I wish I had been more keenly aware of the importance of identifying needs as people in a community perceive them, or feel them, and then working through a young church in trying to meet those needs."

Today, that's a key part of Southern Baptist missionary outreach.

Another Southern Baptist distinctive is support of missions through a convention involving churches "in everything that the denomination ought to be doing," Crawley said. The alternative is a "society" method, in which individuals or churches support specific missions organizations, programs or missionaries.

Southern Baptist missionaries focus on churches, Crawley continued, because from a biblical standpoint, "God intends to use the church as his tool to accomplish his mission in the world." From a practical standpoint, local churches "can do a whole lot more than a limited number of missionaries." And if a time comes when the missionaries must leave, the church still will be on the scene.

Career missionaries remain a priority for Southern Baptists, while other groups are relying heavily on short-term workers. "There needs to be a relationship in depth with the people," Crawley said. "We have to know the language, the culture, the customs. That can't be done on a trip for a few months."

In relief and anti-hunger work, Southern Baptists have integrated human needs ministries "into the rest of our program," Crawley said, whereas many denominations work through such organizations as Church World Service or World Vision. "We not only work to meet needs, but also share the gospel and plant churches at the same time."

--30--

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

CORRECTION--In (BP) story, "Historic Bedrock Examined On SBC's 140th Birthday," mailed 5/17/85, in ninth paragraph beginning "--Created to solicit...." please delete the phrase "through a unified budget."

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Kentucky 'Heritage Rally'
Attracts 1,200 People

By James H. Cox

Baptist Press
5/21/85

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A Southern Baptist leader embroiled in the denomination's controversy over inerrancy longs for the time "where once again we can go to the convention and not know who's going to be nominated (for office)."

Speaking at a Baptist heritage rally May 20, Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said "leadership is the key" to resolving the dilemma in which Southern Baptists find themselves.

"This convention isn't going to split," he said. "There's nothing there to split—we're already split into 32,000 autonomous churches." Baptists are going to stay together because of "our belief in Jesus Christ," Honeycutt told the predominately layperson crowd of more than 1,200.

--more--

The rally, at Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church, was easily the third largest single meeting of Baptists across Kentucky in size that will be held this year. Only the state evangelism conference last February and the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in November are expected to eclipse the heritage rally in attendance.

Two other personalities appeared on the two-hour program with Honeycutt—Norman Cavender, a Baptist layman from Claxton, Ga., and C.R. Daley, editor emeritus of Western Recorder, Middletown, Ky.

Daley warned Southern Baptists' "moment of decision" has arrived. "Most of us would not have chosen it," but it has been "chosen for us," he said. Too many Southern Baptists have not realized "the seriousness of this moment." The outcome will determine the direction of Southern Baptists "for years to come."

He told the crowd "everything" will be new among Southern Baptists if the inerrancy faction prevails.

Daley suggested there will be suspicion "of anyone who deviates from a prescribed norm." Seminary training will be "a la W.A. Criswell and a la Jerry Falwell." Sunday school literature will be scrutinized carefully "to be sure it meets certain theological interpretations." Applicants for missions positions "will have to go through narrow indoctrinations." Some "will not pass" and some "will not submit," Daley said.

If fundamentalism prevails several SBC agencies will be dissolved, he warned. The "first to go" will be the Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The changes he said, would "guarantee that what you and I have known and loved is vastly different" in the future.

Who would be running our convention then? Daley answered: "Those who go for the jugular vein; those who tape record telephone conversations secretly; those who operate a war room in Texas.

"Those who would destroy anyone who gets in their way, with Dr. (Russell) Dilday (president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas) as exhibit number one.

"Those who castigate such revered Southern Baptist leaders as Honeycutt, Dilday, (W. Randall) Lolley (president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.) and (R. Keith) Parks (president of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.) and tuddl up to (television evangelists) Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell."

In conclusion, Daley said, "I pray God enough Southern Baptists have realized what is happening and will stand up in Dallas and march not to an inerrant drummer but to the drum of our eternal Lord Jesus Christ."

Both he and Honeycutt received standing ovations at the completion of their addresses. Honeycutt also was interrupted for about 30 seconds by applause when he announced he would go to the upcoming convention in Dallas and vote for Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas, for SBC president. Moore has challenged the incumbent, Charles Stanley, of Atlanta, for that office.

Meanwhile, Cavender, the Georgia layman, labeled the denominational dispute "our greatest crisis in history." "Loyal, cooperating Southern Baptists are being steadily eroded from places of leadership," he confirmed. "Sincere, honest Southern Baptists have accepted (false) claims as truths."

He cited several examples of what he called a "lack of truth in advertising" by the inerrancy faction.

Southwestern Seminary President Dilday claimed several months ago an organization and mailing list for the inerrancy faction were being maintained on a personal computer by judge Paul Pressler of Houston, one of the key leaders of that faction, Cavender reported. But when asked directly by the editor of the Indiana Baptist if this were so, Pressler "emphatically and categorically denied" the charge.

Last month, Cavender continued, immediate past SBC president James T. Draper Jr. of Euless, Texas, said in an interview "there was an organization maintained" on Paul Pressler's personal computer. "I have a hard time dealing with this, with people who do not tell the truth," Cavender continued. "Our convention is being destroyed by deliberate, deceitful, dishonest methods of doing business. They are making words about the Bible higher than the Bible itself," he injected.

Cavender suggested the inerrancy movement had two targets—the seminaries and the Baptist press, including the Baptist state papers. "I pray Southern Baptists will get back to walking the dusty road of ministry instead of standing in the temple and arguing over the meaning of Genesis," he concluded.

Kentucky Baptist pastors on the program included: William Powell Turk, St. Matthews church, Louisville; Richard Bridges, First church, Bowling Green; H. Gary Coltharp, First church, Madisonville; Bill Messer, First church, Ashland, and James B. Lewis, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville, and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

—30—

Phelps To Retire
From Howard Payne

Baptist Press
5/21/85

BROWNWOOD, Texas (BP)—Ralph A. Phelps Jr., president of Howard Payne University since March 1, 1980, will retire by the end of the 1985-86 school year.

Phelps plans to retire by May 31, 1986, although his present contract extends until March 1, 1987. Howard Payne is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

—30—

First Glorieta Manager
E.A. Herron Dies

Baptist Press
5/21/85

COTTONWOOD, Ariz. (BP)—E.A. Herron, manager of Glorieta Baptist Conference Center from 1951 to 1965, died May 16 in Cottonwood, Ariz., following a long illness.

Herron, 85, was state Sunday school secretary for the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, 1933-44, and for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, 1945-50.

Reared in Louisiana and New Mexico, Herron studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Texas.

According to James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Herron "was employed by the board after the land at Glorieta had been purchased but before any construction was done. He saw Glorieta develop from the beginning. He was a superb manager to launch such an institution as part of his Christian mission."

In August 1952, more than 1,400 persons attended Pioneer Week in temporary buildings at what was then called Glorieta Baptist Assembly. During his 14 years at Glorieta, the campus design and construction of all major buildings except Chaparral Lodge and Aspen Auditorium were completed.

Herron is survived by his wife, Bonni Bell Herron, and a son, E.A. Herron, Jr., both of Cottonwood, Ariz. Memorial services were held both in Arizona and in Roswell, N.M.

—30—