



BAPTIST PRESS

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85-146

Funds For Home Materials, Seed To Aid Filipino Typhoon Victims

TARLAC, Philippines (BP)—Restoring houses and replanting crops top Baptist relief efforts in the wake of typhoon "Saling" that struck the northern Philippines island of Luzon Oct. 18.

More than 70 people were killed and 21,000 houses wrecked as winds up to 135 mph swept across central Luzon.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has allocated \$10,000 to purchase roofing and corner posts for more than 450 Filipino families, said John Cheyne, the board's senior consultant for human needs. He expects an additional allocation of \$4,000 will be approved for seed to replace crops swept away by the typhoon.

Southern Baptist missionaries Roy and Marcia McKay, church planters in Tarlac, lost electricity for several weeks. None of the other nearly 100 Southern Baptist missionaries on the island were affected. But thousands of homes in the area were destroyed, according to news accounts.

Even before the diaster housing for many Filipinos still was a matter of "huts with bamboo floors," McKay wrote in a newsletter last year. "They have little money except for the bare necessities. The average wage here is only the equivalent of \$300 to \$400 per year. Only the wealthy own automobiles, even old ones, and live in block houses."

Further requests for relief funds are expected from Southern Baptist missionaries there. Repairs are needed, for example, at four Baptist churches in central Luzon, Cheyne said.

Civil authorities have estimated damage from the typhoon at more than \$25 million, encompassing public works, private property, crops, livestock and fish ponds. The nation's capital, Manila, in southern Luzon, appeared to be the focal point of the typhoon at its peak, but a mountain range spared the city and sent the storm in two directions with weakened winds.

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Printed Ballots Unused
At Arizona Convention

Baptist Press
11/18/85

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)—The 601 messengers to the annual meeting of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention never even had the opportunity to use their printed ballots during the quiet two-day meeting at North Phoenix Baptist Church Nov. 12-13.

Most sessions ran ahead of schedule, no negative votes were cast on any business items and all four officers were elected by acclamation.

Si Davis, pastor of East Tucson Baptist Church, Tucson, was elected to a second term as president. Dudley Bristow, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Mesa, was elected first vice-president, and Dennis Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Show Low, was elected second vice-president. Jay George, pastor of North Tucson Baptist Church, Tucson, was reelected recording secretary.

A budget of \$4.8 million, a 2.5 percent increase over the previous year, was adopted for 1986. The Arizona churches are expected to contribute \$2.35 million of this amount to the Cooperative Program.

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Of its undesignated receipts, the state convention will send 27.5 percent, an increase of .5 percent to the worldwide mission and education programs of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

Messengers adopted seven resolutions, all without discussion. Resolutions urged love and reconciliation in the Southern Baptist Convention and supported new work, Planned Growth In Giving and Good News simultaneous revivals set for 1986. Others opposed casino gambling and encouraged churches to work to present alternatives to abortion.

The next meeting of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention will be Nov. 11-12, 1986 at North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix.

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Homeless Korean Women Find
Poverty, Pimps Or Mrs. Pang

By Erich Bridges

Baptist Press
11/18/85

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)—They arrive daily at the Seoul train station: wide-eyed country girls in their teens, wives or daughters estranged from their husbands or families, unskilled women looking for work.

To these awe-struck rural women, Seoul at first sight is "like heaven or Hollywood," observes Southern Baptist missionary Don Jones. That's understandable, considering the contrast between rural South Korea and Seoul, now one of the world's largest cities.

But for a woman with no money, no job, no place to go, Seoul is more like hell. Her career options: poverty or prostitution.

Pimps watch the train station for arriving women. The helpless ones are easy to spot; they step off the trains and stand around gawking at the big city. The pimps approach them and offer shelter, food, clothing. The price is revealed later.

But police watch the train station, too, and guide some of the homeless females to Mrs. Pang's shelter in one of the city's factory districts. There they find safety and support, job training, sometimes family reunion, always the love of Christ.

Mrs. Pang (Pang Ho Sun is her full name) is a small, gray-haired Baptist widow with delicate hands and gentle eyes. Almost single-handedly, she has helped nearly 40,000 Korean women in need of a friend.

Now 70, she founded the Suzanna Christian Trust Foundation in 1967 and bought land for her current shelter in 1975. "The first year I built the basement," she remembers. "The second year I built the first floor. Then the second floor. For the last three stories the government gave some money, but not enough."

Southern Baptist missionaries also have given some time and money, and the Foreign Mission Board has agreed this year to help finance a new building. Other aid has come from churches in Japan, where Mrs. Pang studied in seminary. The Korean government assistance stems from official interest in Mrs. Pang's work and her own former career as a public social worker, which began among the ruins and refugees of the Korean War.

She's also found time over the years to help begin and lead the Korean Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and to rear four children. One son now attends Harvard University; a daughter teaches music at the Baptist seminary in Seoul.

The sudden death years ago of her second son, whom she had "dedicated" to God as a future pastor, emotionally devastated Mrs. Pang. "I asked God, 'Why did you take him away from me?' At that time I heard the question, 'How could you give your son to the Lord when you will not give yourself to him?'"

Her answer to that inner question was a profoundly deeper faith and commitment, which resulted in the Suzanna Foundation.

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Today her rambling building offers not only emergency shelter for homeless women and girls but education programs, Christian counseling, worship services, a day-care center for children of women factory workers, shelter and training for unwed mothers, and vocational training—including a bustling clothes factory in the basement. Mrs. Pang oversees it all and scrambles for the resources to keep it going.

Her first goal for every homeless woman is family reconciliation and reunion. If that proves impossible, she teaches women to take care of themselves, first by developing self-respect. "She's someone who sees a human being as very precious," Jones explains. "(These women) begin to feel a sense of worth just by being around her." Job training follows until her students are ready to join the more than 50,000 female factory workers in the district surrounding the shelter.

Mrs. Pang sustains her vision with faith, guts and fund raising. Korean Baptist churches excel in evangelism but haven't yet shown much interest in her ministry, so she looks to Japan and elsewhere for help.

"Her work seems to be very lonely," observes Baptist worker Kang Su Do, who counsels and preaches at the shelter. "But she has a very strong will."

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(Adapted from the October-November 1985 issue of The Commission, magazine of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.)

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

Portable Power Units Taken
To Colombian Relief Sites

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
11/18/85

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Portable power units purchased with Southern Baptist relief funds have been set up in locations where victims of the Nevado del Ruiz volcanic eruption are being treated and sheltered in west-central Colombia.

One unit is at a health center in Lerida, a village eight miles from the city of Armero, destroyed by a wall of mud and water after the Nov. 13 eruption. Lerida has been an initial checkpoint for survivors of one of the worst natural disasters in Colombian history.

The death toll stands at more than 21,000 in the remote region of the Andes Mountains. About 2,500 people were seriously injured and about 20,000 are homeless.

Three power units are at the village of Libano where electricity has been off since the eruption and hospital personnel have treated numerous victims.

James Giles, Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinator in Colombia, and his wife, Mary Nell, delivered most of the 12 portable power units purchased by Southern Baptists. One unit was taken by helicopter to a remote mountain village.

Another missionary, Robert Edwards, a physician at the Baptist hospital in Barranquilla, and a nurse arrived in the city of Ibague Nov. 16 and performed 20 operations in a hospital the following day. Ibague, with a half-million people, is about 75 miles south of the volcano.

An initial \$10,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds was allocated the day after the eruption and \$15,000 the following day.

The funds have been used to purchase the generators, 5,000 units of tetanus vaccine, 5,000 units of antibiotics vaccine, blankets and other supplies.

"There will definitely be a good bit more (in relief expenditures)," said John Cheyne, senior consultant for human needs at the Foreign Mission Board.

Missionaries in Colombia have begun investigating possible long-range relief efforts, said Betty Law, the board's associate director for mission efforts in western South America. On the scene is Van Williams, a physician on the FMB staff who serves as health care consultant.

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Ibague will be the center of Baptist efforts, which are being closely coordinated with the Red Cross, according to Bryan Brasington, FMB director for western South America.

As of Nov. 18, the board also has sent one volunteer, Don Pearson, an orthopedic surgeon from Orlando, Fla.

Remote locations have hampered relief efforts. "We need people, we need equipment, but we have next to nothing," one Colombian Red Cross worker was quoted as saying.

Volcano Nevado del Ruiz had not erupted in 400 years, but had begun spewing steam and ash particles earlier this year. Still, scientists there expressed no worry over an immediate problem. When the 17,400-foot volcano erupted, glacial formations melted, and the water rushing down the mountain caused massive landslides, inundating the Magdalena River and several tributaries. One of those tributaries flooded Armero, a cotton-farming town of about 25,000 people. Mud and water were as deep as 20 feet there.

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Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists
Reelect Frank Hamby President

Baptist Press
11/18/85

RACINE, Wis. (BP)—Messengers to the second annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention adopted a \$1,362,910 budget; reelected Frank Hamby, pastor of Highland Crest Baptist Church, Greenbay, Wis., president and honored executive director Otha Winningham for 10 years' service.

There were 228 messengers and visitors gathered at Immanuel Baptist Church, Racine, Wis.

The 1986 budget reflects a seven percent increase over 1985 with 25 percent again earmarked for national SBC causes. An anticipated \$264,000 will come from the churches affiliated with MWSEBC with the remainder from the Home Mission Board, Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Bold Mission Thrust goals for 1986-90, including a target of 190 congregations and 16,500 church members, were adopted. Currently there are 115 congregations and 12,000 members.

Resolutions commended the launching of "The Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist" (the new state Baptist newspaper) and creation of a long range planning committee. Bob Stockland, pastor of Northern City Baptist Church, Deluth, Minn., was elected first vice-president and Larry Faus, pastor of Gospel Baptist Church, Sparta, Wis., was named second vice-president.

Messengers voted to meet with the North Center Baptist Church, Brooklyn Park, Minn., for the 1987 meeting Oct. 29-31. Previously Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn., was selected for the Nov. 13-15, 1986 session.

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Rochelle Davis President
Of Michigan Baptists

Baptist Press
11/18/85

MONROE, Mich. (BP)—Rochelle Davis, pastor of Temple of Faith Baptist Church of Detroit, was elected president of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan during the BSCM's 28th annual session at Monroe (Mich.) Missionary Baptist Church.

Davis, first vice-president the past two years, is the first black to head the BSCM.

Messengers also adopted a budget of \$2,452,793 with \$982,588 coming from churches affiliated with the convention. Most of the remainder of the budget will come from the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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A constitutional change moved the Woman's Missionary Union department and the Brotherhood department from the church development division to the cooperative missions division.

The 1986 convention will be at Harvey Baptist Church, Marquette, Mich., Nov. 10-12.

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California Baptists Retain
1985 Budget For 1986

Baptist Press
11/18/85

REDDING, Calif. (BP)—Nearly 1,000 messengers traveled to the northernmost part of California for the forty-fifth annual meeting of the state convention in Redding and confirmed conservative stances in resolutions and Cooperative Program budget plans.

The first black ever elected as president of the state convention, San Jose pastor Willie T. Gaines Jr., was given a second one-year term by acclamation.

Strong resolutions opposing abortion, homosexuality, pornography, gambling and apartheid in South Africa were passed, as well as resolutions supporting spiritual awakening among churches in the state and "Good News America: God Loves You" simultaneous crusades next spring.

The 1986 Cooperative Program budget of \$5,430,000 is identical to the 1985 budget. Messengers heard projections that 1985 receipts will fall more than \$500,000 below the budget goal. However, the 1986 budget includes 28.5 percent channeled to SBC causes, an increase of .25 percent over 1985.

Because of the location of the meeting, total attendance of 1,310 was considerably below previous conventions. Messengers were in an upbeat mood with little discussion or controversy evident in the business sessions.

Robert D. Lewis, Yorba Linda pastor, was elected first vice-president; Joe Fry, Ukiah pastor, was elected second vice-president and Dick Dillender, Fresno, was elected music director.

Next year's meeting will be at Stockton, Nov. 11-13.

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Fisher Posthumous Recipient
Of ABTS Mullins Award

Baptist Press
11/18/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Ben C. Fisher, former executive director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention who died on Nov. 3 after a long illness, recently was honored posthumously by American Baptist College of the American Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS).

Fisher, who also was executive secretary of the Commission of ABTS from 1970-78, received the E.Y. Mullins Human Relations Award, presented annually to a person who has made significant contributions in the area of human relations, particularly as these relate to National Baptists and the black community.

ABTS President Odell McGlothian Sr., also cited Fisher for his contributions to the primarily black institution supported by the SBC and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc. "Through the efforts of Dr. Fisher, ABTS was able to make the transition from a theological seminary to an accredited Bible school. He played an important role in helping the school become what it is today," McGlothian said.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission, who accepted the award on behalf of Fisher, noted, "The ministry of Ben Fisher was characterized by his joy of life, intellectual vitality and commitment to service."

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