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Toddler, Mother Reunited;
Photo May Be Pulitzer Entry

BOGOTA, Colombia (BP)—Many people came to know him as "NN" (no name), an 18-month-old child apparently orphaned by a killer mudslide in the Andes Mountains of Colombia.

Now, however, the toddler has a name, Alexis Acuna.

Six weeks after the mudslide destroyed the town of Armero, he was reunited with his teenage, widowed mother, reports Ellis Leagans, Southern Baptist mission chairman in Colombia.

The mother, Maria Leyla Velandia, remains hospitalized in Bogota with a severe leg injury from the mudslide that killed 25,000 or more people. Alexis is in a private home in Bogota.

The Christmastime reunion was handled by Colombian child welfare authorities.

Alexis became a symbol of the massive tragedy after his picture appeared in Picture Week magazine and as many as 700 newspapers across the country. Alexis, his head bandaged and arms outstretched, was crying for "Mami" (Mommy).

The Associated Press intends to nominate his picture, taken by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board photographer Joanna Pinneo, for a Pulitzer Prize, according to George Mikulec, AP deputy news photo editor in New York City.

Velandia and her son were separated after being rescued from the mud and debris that buried Armero. The mother was taken to the state hospital in Ibague, then transferred to a Bogota hospital. The child was treated initially at a small village and then taken to the Ibague hospital, where he was known only as "NN."

Velandia saw her husband, Javier, die from his injuries just before a helicopter came to rescue them the morning of Nov. 15, about 36 hours after the mudslide.

Leagans and his wife, Judy, in visiting Velandia Dec. 30, learned that the mother, her husband, their son and a two-year-old daughter were in their house as it was destroyed by the mudslide. Velandia was able to hold on to Alexis but her husband lost touch with the daughter. The daughter still is missing.

The toddler's picture resulted in numerous phone calls at Associated Press offices from people wanting to adopt him.

Southern Baptist relief funds continue to provide antibiotics for the mother and various assistance to other Armero survivors.

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Fort Campbell Chaplains
Struggle With Own Grief

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee
By Sherman Anthony Brown

Baptist Press
1/2/86

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (BP)—After visiting the nearby 71 families grieving for their lost children, spouses and parents, the nine Southern Baptist Army chaplains at Ft. Campbell, Ky., confronted their own grief.

"I'm so tired," admitted Southern Baptist chaplain Lt. Tom Preston. "I don't feel there's much emotion left in me."

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Preston, a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., along with the 32 chaplains assigned to Ft. Campbell, spent the week after the crash visiting families, planning and conducting memorial services for each unit.

A chartered Arrow Air DC-8 plane crashed in Newfoundland Dec. 12, killing 248 Fort Campbell soldiers who were returning from a six month peacekeeping mission on the Sinai Peninsula.

"We (chaplains) spent the first morning with the families. We prayed, held their hands and gave out Kleenex's. At that time I didn't have time to deal with my feelings," said Preston.

Preston visited a family with an 18-month-old girl. For weeks she had been told her daddy was coming home. When Preston walked in the room, her face lit up and she cried, "Daddy! Daddy! She grabbed my neck and hugged me," Preston said. "And she wouldn't let go. When it was time to leave I had to pull her off."

Going to his own home wasn't easy for Preston. "My wife met me at the door. We held each other and I cried."

"Even my own daughter has been affected," said Preston, explaining that during her bedtime prayers, she prayed, "God, please help the children who have lost their daddies."

The 32 chaplains also have had to work through the grief of losing a fellow chaplain in the crash. Major Troy Carter, a Pentacostal Church of God, had been scheduled to return a week before the crash, but switched places with his assistant, a younger soldier who needed to spend more time with his family.

"I've had to begin to come to grips with my own mortality," said Preston. "It hasn't challenged my faith, but I've had to reach deeper for it."

"I've also had to decide how committed I am to my calling. Because I know there is a possibility of this happening to me," he continued. "But when someone says, 'I don't know what I'd do without you,' it affirms my call."

"All of us recognize it could have been me," said Southern Baptist chaplain Capt. Douglas Carver of Rome, Ga. "When I see children without fathers, I wonder how it would be if it had been me."

It was Carver's child who made him realize he must deal with the reality of life, even during the tragedy of death. "I didn't feel like decorating our Christmas tree after all this," admitted Carver, "so we put it off."

But his nine-year-old daughter refused to give up the tradition of a Christmas tree. She hung a paper tree she made with ornaments and popcorn balls taped to it on her bedroom wall. "We've got to have a tree," she told her father.

"Not only do we have to deal with death, but we also have to deal with the reality of life," said Carver.

The division chaplain responsible for coordinating the ministry of the 32 chaplains, Southern Baptist chaplain Col. John Allen, West Palm Beach, Fla., said he is proud of the way the chaplains ministered to the grieving families, and to each other. "Southern Baptists should be proud of these chaplains who represent them," he added.

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Baptist Colleges Release
Fall Enrollment Figures

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist colleges and universities experienced an overall gain in enrollment during the 1985 fall semester, according to figures released to the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Student enrollment in the 47 senior colleges and five junior colleges sponsored by their respective state conventions was 95,460, compared to 94,208 in 1984, an increase of 1.3 percent.

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Figures include only students who enrolled in credit courses during the 1985 fall semester.

Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla., had the largest percentage increase (11.6) while Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., experienced the greatest percentage decrease (16.2).

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission, expressed optimism regarding the enrollment figures. He pointed out the number of 18- to 24-year-olds in the population dropped by three percent between 1980-84. Also, he said, following the end of the baby boom era in 1964, this age group is much smaller and affects not only education but other segments of society.

"Our Baptist colleges are doing unusually well, in light of the demographics, to maintain the stability reflected in last fall's enrollment figures," he said.

Walker noted the pool of non-traditional students has increased and cited statistics which show that by 1992 there will be as many college students age 25 and older as there will be in the traditional age brackets.

In terms of total enrollment, Baylor University in Waco, Texas, is the largest Southern Baptist college with 11,481 students. Other schools in the top 10 in number of students are: Mercer University, 5,237; Wake Forest University, 5,062; University of Richmond, 4,609; Samford University, 3,669; Mississippi College; 3,609; Campbell University, 3,577; Furman University, 2,952; Stetson University, 2,794 and Houston Baptist University, 2,775.

Missouri's four Baptist colleges enrolled 5,353 students: Hannibal-LaGrange College (709, 6.8 percent increase); Missouri Baptist College (522, 1.8 percent increase); Southwest Baptist University (2,096, 6.8 percent increase) and William Jewell College (2,026, 1.8 percent increase).

Mississippi's three Baptist institutions--Blue Mountain College (283, 12.4 percent decrease); Mississippi College (3,609, 7.2 percent increase) and William Carey College (1,778, 1.8 percent increase)--reported 5,670 students, up from 5,437 the previous year.

Kentucky's Baptist colleges--Campbellsville College (640, 0.8 percent increase); Cumberland University (2,094, 0.6 percent decrease) and Georgetown College (1,315, 1.3 percent increase)--enrolled 4,049 students, 10 more than in 1984.

Georgia's institutions--Brewton-Parker College (1,285, 0.6 percent increase); Mercer University (5,237, 3.4 percent increase); Shorter College (736, 0.8 percent increase); Tift College (510, 2.1 percent decrease) and Truett-McConnell College (870, 3.5 percent decrease)--enrolled 8,638 students, a 1.7 percent increase.

Texas, with eight Baptist colleges--Baylor University (11,481, 4.5 percent increase); Dallas Baptist University (1,626, 4.8 percent increase); East Texas Baptist University (699, 2.1 percent decrease); Hardin-Simmons University (1,817, 0.9 percent decrease); Houston Baptist University (2,775, 5.3 percent increase); Howard Payne University, (851, 10.8 percent decrease); University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, (1,307, 11.1 percent increase) and Wayland Baptist University (1,799, 5.4 percent increase)--reported an enrollment of 22,355, a 3.7 percent increase over 1984 totals.

North Carolina's Baptist schools--Campbell University (3,577, 2.0 percent decrease); Chowan College (963, 5.7 percent increase); Gardner-Webb College (1,823, 3.3 percent decrease); Mars Hill College (1,419, 4.6 percent increase); Meredith College (1,848, 4.9 percent increase); Wake Forest University (5,062, 1.9 percent increase) and Wingate College (1,666, 6.7 percent increase)--enrolled 16,358 students, an increase of 1.7 percent.

Tennessee's three Baptist colleges--Belmont College (2,257, 6.2 percent increase); Carson-Newman College (1,605, 6.5 percent decrease) and Union University (1,511, 3.6 percent increase)--enrolled 5,373 students, an increase of 0.9 percent.

Alabama Baptist colleges--Judson College (342, 2.8 percent decrease); Mobile College (802, 8.6 percent decrease) and Samford University (3,669, 8.4 percent decrease)--reported 4,813 students, an 8.1 percent decrease.

Virginia's four Baptist colleges--Averett College (953, 0.1 percent increase); Bluefield College (335, 2.4 percent increase); University of Richmond (4,609, 0.7 percent increase) and Virginia Intermont College (481, 6.9 percent decrease)--reported 6,378, a 0.1 percent increase.

South Carolina's four Baptist institutions--Anderson College (1,073, 8.1 percent decrease); Baptist College at Charleston (1,459, 11.4 percent decrease); Furman University (2,952, 0.6 percent decrease) and North Greenville College (529, 5.6 percent increase)--experienced a 4.3 percent decrease to 6,013 students.

Arkansas, with two Baptist colleges--Ouachita Baptist University (1,414, 0.9 percent increase) and Southern Baptist College (423, 16.2 percent decrease)--enrolled 1,837 students, a 3.6 percent decrease from 1984 figures.

Florida's two colleges--Palm Beach Atlantic College (1,091, 11.6 percent increase) and Stetson University (2,794, 1.9 percent increase)--enrolled 3,885 students, an increase of 4.4 percent.

States with just one Baptist college include: California (California Baptist College, 597, no change); Arizona (Grand Canyon College, 1,515, 9.9 percent increase); Louisiana (Louisiana College, 1,022, 4.2 percent decrease) and Oklahoma (Oklahoma Baptist University, 1,604, 0.9 percent increase).

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Reimel Succeeds Wilbur
In RPRC Executive Post

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GLADWYNE, Pa.--Anne M. Reimel, executive secretary of the Martin de Porres Foundation, has been elected executive secretary of the Religious Public Relations Council (RPRC).

Reimel assumed her post Jan. 1, succeeding Marvin C. Wilbur of New York, RPRC volunteer staff executive for 26 years, according to Wilmer C. Fields of Nashville, Tenn., who chaired the RPRC search committee.

Wilbur resigned from the RPRC position but will continue as assistant vice-president of the United Presbyterian Foundation at 475 Riverside Drive in New York.

Reimel will continue to head the Martin de Porres Foundation, founded for religious education purposes by her late father, Matthew H. McCloskey, prominent builder, former treasurer of the national Democratic Party and former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland.

RPRC, an international, interfaith organization founded in 1929, has more than 800 members. It seeks to encourage and maintain high standards of religious public relations and communications. Reimel will operate it from her home, P.O. Box 315, Gladwyne, Pa. 19035.

Lloyd Householder, director of communications at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, is RPRC president.

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Asian Baptists Seek Projects
For Their Own Missionaries

By Erich Bridges

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HONG KONG (BP)--Baptist leaders from five Asian nations and Hong Kong are jointly seeking evangelism projects for their own foreign missionaries.

The leaders--representing Baptists in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines--met in Hong Kong in mid-December. They elected Korean pastor Han Ki Man chairman and promised to work for support for foreign missions from their national conventions.

The leaders also agreed to submit specific proposals for cross-cultural evangelism and church-starting projects.

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Han Ki Man, pastor of Yoido Baptist Church in Seoul, South Korea, "set the direction for the group.... He made an impassioned plea for joint cooperation in evangelism, pastoral training, church planting and discipleship," said Jimmy Maroney, evangelism and church growth consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Maroney represented Southern Baptists at the meeting.

The eight Asian leaders moved ahead with a strategy discussion begun last June in Ridgecrest, N.C. They met there with Baptists from 15 other countries who already send or plan to send missionaries abroad. The global evangelization consultation at Ridgecrest, proposed by Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks, encouraged the Baptist leaders to begin sharing information on their existing and potential foreign mission work.

The Asians decided at Ridgecrest to explore ways to coordinate their mission efforts. In Hong Kong, all eight came together again and formally organized as a regional group.

Most of the Baptist groups represented have sent mission workers of some type abroad, but on a small scale and often for short periods of time. The leaders examined the problems Asian missionaries face, such as lack of available training and financial support. Many missionaries depend entirely on individual church support where convention mission programs are weak or nonexistent. And most of them work abroad only with people who speak their own language.

The leaders discussed the potential for cooperation in missionary work among their conventions and how to develop a strategy for truly cross-cultural missions in Asia and beyond. A number of possible mission fields within their own region were mentioned, along with nations such as India, Sri Lanka, Brazil and several Communist countries in Asia.

The regional group doesn't necessarily intend to become a missionary-sending body, at least not any time soon.

"I think they look at themselves right now as initiators and promoters of projects, trying to get their conventions to recognize the need," Maroney said. "They're trying to find out what they're capable of doing."

When the group meets again in April in Seoul, each representative will propose a cross-cultural evangelism or church-starting project identified by his own national convention. The group will select one or two projects with a good chance for success and consider how each can be funded and supplied with trained mission personnel. The selected proposals will then go back to the conventions for final approval and action.

The group is recommending the first several projects be completed within a year of approval. If they succeed, longer-term projects will be attempted, possibly involving career-type missionaries.

The Asian leaders also are asking Southern Baptists for a permanent representative to their group. During the Seoul meeting they want detailed suggestions from the Foreign Mission Board on how their conventions can begin their own foreign mission departments or boards.

Foreign Mission Board staffers took a deliberately low profile at last summer's Ridgecrest consultation to allow maximum interaction and avoid Southern Baptist "domination" of the meeting. In Hong Kong the Asian leaders expressed appreciation for that approach. But they repeatedly said they want active Foreign Mission Board participation and support, especially in the areas of missionary strategy and training.

Maroney said a "strong, solid base" was established in Hong Kong, though it may be years before the effort actually produces career missionaries fully supported by the conventions. But he added that the Asians are moving surprisingly fast. Han Ki Man will spend the time between now and the group's April meeting contacting key Baptist leaders in each Asian convention and asking for support.