



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2351
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Marv Knox, 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

March 6, 1986

86-30

Baptists Helping Pick
Up The Pieces In Haiti

By Erich Bridges

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP)—Haiti still is picking up the pieces after months of upheaval, and nearly everyone—Baptists included—agrees the job of national recovery will take a long time.

"Now it's time to start going back up the hill," said Southern Baptist missionary Jack Hancox. "That's where we are."

The mass movement which toppled the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier in February still rumbles, sending aftershocks through the country. Authorities reimposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in late February as new looting and protest demonstrations resulted from the attempted departure of a former Duvalier secret police chief.

Information on Baptists continues to trickle in from various parts of the country. Hancox said about 90 percent of the more than 60 Haitian Baptist pastors have been accounted for and no Baptist deaths have been reported, although reports have not been received from churches in some remote areas.

Meanwhile, Hancox is buying and distributing food and materials for the numerous Baptist churches, schools and food storehouses damaged or looted during the height of the unrest. More food, bought with Southern Baptist relief funds, will be distributed this month to 60 Baptist schools after the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's regular shipment of food arrives in Haiti. Hancox oversees a school nutrition program which feeds about 15,000 children.

Fearing theft at the docks in Port-au-Prince, Hancox had asked earlier that the food shipment be delayed.

Closed since before Christmas, schools in Haiti finally have reopened, after a fashion. "The big problem with most of the schools is that the food that was to feed the kids is not in the country," Hancox explained. "So why should a kid walk three, four miles to school and not have anything to eat and then have to walk back home where they haven't got much to eat?"

To make matters worse, looters sacked many government and church schools, taking benches, chairs and other furniture. And little money exists to pay the teachers who return to their jobs.

As a nation, Haiti still faces the economic problems which helped make it the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, compounded by months of turmoil and a reportedly empty treasury left behind by Duvalier. The U.S. government is assisting with immediate food and petroleum needs, but government officials have said it may be difficult to provide other major aid this year since foreign aid funds already have been allocated.

"Not much (food) is going to be up in the (rural) country," said Hancox. "They're not going to get it. So we're going to have to make some kind of arrangements to get some food distribution points back inland where the people really are going to be hit hard. A lot of crops have spoiled with no trucking and all the fighting and destruction."

Hancox, who works with Haitian Baptists in a variety of social ministries, hopes to assist Baptists in putting together a "national plan" for relief. But he said the effort will require participation from all religious groups, as Roman Catholics did in a recent appeal for national unity and reconciliation.

—more—

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

"It's going to take all the religious leaders working together now for the first time.... It's going to take a real team effort, and all the old historic jealousies are going to have to be thrown away if we are going to have a country we have every right to believe we can have," Hancox said.

--30--

College President Proposes
Common Ground For SBC Struggle

By Susan Shaw

Baptist Press
3/6/86

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Common ground is possible between factions in the current Southern Baptist Convention controversy, Larry Lewis said during a student-led forum at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Lewis, president of Missouri's Hannibal-La Grange College, was guest of Student Evangelical Forum, an organization of students on the seminary campus in Louisville, who are committed to "cherish our evangelical heritage and...spiritual awakening, strengthening and renewal."

The convention will not split, Lewis said, although he voiced concern over "splintering." He acknowledged unity in the convention is possible only by a common commitment to missions, but he questioned the convention's spiritual unity.

Pointing to redemption "by the blood of Christ" as Southern Baptists' "fundamental basis of unity," Lewis offered several propositions he feels could bring unity to the convention.

Love for a brother in Christ must be unconditional, he said, adding, "It must never be predicated on his agreeing with my theology or doctrine." He reminded the student group Jesus said his disciples would be known by love, not orthodoxy.

Lewis' second proposition was that concepts are more important than words. He explained that while he does not insist on anyone subscribing to his words, such as inerrant and infallible, he does insist on agreement on the concept.

He defined inerrant as "without error" and infallible as "incapable of error," concluding, "God is not capable of error.... A perfect God inspired a perfect book."

Finally, Lewis said Southern Baptists can find common ground if they can affirm four basic "historic tenets:"

--"The Word of God is inspired in its whole and every part," he said, adding not only were the writers inspired but the words themselves were inspired, although he denied any idea of mechanical dictation. "God moved through the mind and heart of the writer," he affirmed, but added that in the process God kept the Bible "free from error."

--The Word of God is "incorruptible," which he defined as "sound, pure, untainted."

--The Word of God is "indestructible."

--The Word of God is "indispensable."

--30--

CORRECTION: In story titled "Baptist Joint Committee Adopts Infiltration Position" mailed 3/5/86, please substitute the following paragraph for the original paragraph 13:

James M. Dunn, Baptist Joint Committee executive director, presented a report on denominational Bible chairs at state universities. Dunn said the Baptist Joint Committee is working with Phil D. Strickland, director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, in developing guidelines that would maintain such chairs in that state without violating the First Amendment. The need for such guidelines was precipitated by an opinion issued last year by Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox expressing the view current practices involving Bible chairs on campuses of state universities in the state run afoul of the First Amendment's establishment clause.

Thank you,
Baptist Press

Joseph Bullock Joins
Brotherhood Staff

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Joseph Edwin Bullock has joined the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission staff in Memphis, Tenn., as the executive director of the Fellowship of Baptist Men. For the past five years, he has been associate director of the volunteer enlistment department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

The Fellowship of Baptist Men, a part of the Brotherhood Commission, is designed to bring together men with similar vocational skills and interests and provide a forum for them to exchange ideas and determine how they can best use their abilities to serve Christ through their denomination, Bullock said.

"Many have long dreamed of organizing men nationally, but such plans did not have a clear channel which to move and have usually been limited to one dimension, such as construction work," he said. "Now we not only have the organization through which these dreams can become reality, we have limitless interest groups plus support from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Foreign Misson Board.

"Through the Fellowship of Baptist Men, we will become suppliers of volunteers," he added. "We plan to enlist men in the various fellowships, interpret the need of the mission boards to them and assist in training to help them utilize their skills fully in missions service."

Prior to his employment at the Foreign Mission Board, Bullock, 51, directed North Carolina Brotherhood work for 16 years. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

--30--

Golden Gate Forms Search Committee,
Names Graves As Interim President

Baptist Press
3/6/86

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--President Emeritus Harold Graves has been named interim president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary as the executive committee of the school's board of trustees searches for a successor to President Franklin Pollard.

The trustees' executive committee met Feb. 26 to begin its work as presidential search committee and in that meeting named Graves, who was president of the Mill Valley, Calif., seminary from 1952 to 1977, as interim president.

Pollard resigned the Golden Gate presidency effective March 1 to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.

Trustee Chairman O.Q. Quick said Graves' election as interim president by the executive committee was unanimous. It was effective March 1.

Since his retirement in July 1977, Graves has been interim pastor of several churches and was acting president of California Baptist College in Riverside from February to July 1984. During February, Graves spent three weeks as a consultant to the International Baptist Theological Seminary of Eastern Africa in Arusha, Tanzania, at the request of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

--30--

Volunteer Works To Provide
'Heavenly Vision' For Blind

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
3/6/86

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--Although nearly sightless himself, Ernest Craig's missionary vision has resulted in a one-of-a-kind ministry to the visually impaired in South Texas.

--more--

Since January, University Park Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, has offered a Bible study class for the blind and visually impaired. The class, taught by Craig, was begun with the goal of becoming a self-contained mission—and perhaps a self supporting church—in the future, Pastor Robert Canion of University Park Church says.

"We would like for this to become a regional ministry, not just an associational or city-wide one," explains Craig, a recently-appointed Mission Service Corps volunteer. "As far as we can tell, there is no other program like this in South Texas."

Craig's own visual impairment gives him an affinity with blind people. He began losing his vision in 1974 while serving as minister of youth and music at two Hispanic missions in Premont, Texas, after spending two weeks in a diabetic coma. Later treatments and operations succeeded in stopping hemorrhaging behind his eyes, but he was left virtually blind.

"I lost all but perception of light and darkness," he says. "I cannot read or distinguish objects in front of me."

In spite of his disability, Craig completed his education at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and entered the pastorate. While pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Comanche, Texas, another health problem necessitated a move to San Antonio where he could have regular access to a kidney dialysis machine.

After joining University Park church, Craig talked to a fellow church member who had learned of a Sunday school class for the visually impaired in Oklahoma. He approached Canion about beginning a similar ministry in San Antonio, and the pastor agreed a distinct need existed.

"The blind and visually impaired sometimes may be overlooked," Canion notes. "The hearing impaired are more likely to be group themselves because of their common language. Visually impaired persons are able to operate within the church as a whole, but they have special needs that the church should seek to meet."

One need already has been met prior to the beginning of the new ministry--wheelchair accessibility. Other needs included providing Bibles and educational resources on tape and in Braille and enlisting sighted persons to work with the visually impaired.

"We found we needed sighted people who were willing to get the Sunday school members to the right place, to take roll and to deal with the paperwork," Canion says.

Craig is working through his association with local organizations for the blind to inform the visually impaired in the area that University Park church has launched this new work.

In beginning the new work the congregation received a start-up gift from the Missions Funding Committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Assistance to new churches and missions is provided through the Mary Hill Davis Centennial Offering for State Missions. In 1985-86, Texas Baptists are seeking to raise \$30 million to help start 2,000 congregations by 1990 as part of the "Mission Texas" challenge.

In the future, persons involved in the new ministry at University Park hope to offer classes in Braille and mobility training as well as counselling for those who are just beginning to lose their sight.

"That can be devastating. It's such a drastic change," explains Craig. "It's hard to accept, and there is a tendency among some people to give up living. They have to be helped to overcome their incapacitation."

Canion acknowledges University Park has entered an unusual ministry. Perhaps the most unusual aspect, he says, is linking the phrase "visually impaired" with the word "mission."

"When we think of missions coming out of vision, it seems almost unbaptistic to speak of a church being 'visually impaired,'" he said. "But as Brother Craig says, these folks have a heavenly vision."

 CORRECTION: The Page 2 from the (BP) mailing dated March 4, 1986, was inserted inadvertently as Page 2 in some copies of the (BP) mailing dated March 5, 1986. If your copy has the wrong Page 2, please replace it with the correct version, printed below. Baptist Press regrets the error and inconvenience.

Also affecting the overall postal rate picture is the implementation of a new budget-balancing act--the "Gramm-Rudman-Hollings plan." That measure further reduced the non-profit subsidy by about \$24 million.

The Jan. 1 rate increase prematurely moved non-profit mailers from step 14 to step 16 of a 16-step plan begun in 1970 to phase out the postal subsidy. The additional increase will move non-profit mailers beyond step 16 and will require the issuance of new rate charts.

--30--

'Saturday Builders' Construct
 Church-Strengthening System

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
 3/5/86

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—Somewhere in San Antonio, Texas, nearly every Saturday, teams of volunteer builders are helping churches start new churches, meet human need and bring the gospel to persons in transitional neighborhoods.

Under the direction of Damon Hollingsworth, regional consultant for Texas Baptist Men, volunteer building teams are drawn from churches in seven Baptist associations. The volunteers have helped build, remodel or renovate 12 churches in 1985-86 in the transitional areas between San Antonio's inner and outer loops.

"I work through Baptist Men's groups to organize teams on the associational level; then I give the 'Macedonian call' for them to come on over and help us," says Hollingsworth, who is a Mission Service Corps volunteer. "We have men who drive 75 miles on any given Saturday to come help."

For example, Gus L. Manuel of Dellview Baptist Church in San Antonio has been on a volunteer building project nearly every weekend for the last three-and-a-half years. Manuel, who emphasizes that his name is pronounced like "manual labor," is in his 30th year as a public school teacher.

"After putting up with seventh and eighth grade kids all week, working with Christian adults and working off energy in building projects proves to be good therapy," he notes.

"I just got called into this kind of work," says Ralph Shanafelt of First Baptist Church in Seguin, Texas, who now is full time building consultant-coordinator with Texas Baptist Men and Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association.

Helping churches in rapidly changing transitional areas is a goal of the Saturday builders. One example is Calvary Baptist Church, a black congregation on San Antonio's east side.

Calvary church is located in a predominantly black neighborhood of about 5,000 homes, and is a short walk from the Wheatley Courts low-income housing projects.

In the past year, the Saturday volunteers helped build a new auditorium for the 42-year-old congregation. The building teams were assisted by men from the church and were served a noon meal each Saturday by Calvary church women.

"Involving the people of the church--it's something you've got to do. That's really the secret," emphasizes Hollingsworth. "It gives the people a sense of involvement and ownership. They take pride in it."

The Saturday builders currently are involved in refurbishing the old auditorium at Calvary to turn it into a fellowship hall and library and to provide additional educational space.

Across town, in the midst of the city's crime-ridden west side, Saturday builders are helping Prospect Hill Baptist Church and Christian Fellowship Center meet the spiritual and physical needs of the largely Hispanic neighborhood.

For 21 years, J.D. Crabb has been pastor at the church and, with his wife Marion, co-director of the kindergarten and social ministries center.

--more--



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY HQ
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE
NASHVILLE, TN 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION