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Cameroon Death Toll Includes
80 Members Of Baptist Church

N - FMB

SOUBOUM, Cameroon (BP)—Eighty or more members of a Baptist church in Souboum, a small village near the site of a volcanic eruption of lethal gases from Lake Nios in northwest Cameroon, were among 1,500 persons who died in the disaster Aug. 21.

The church is one of 525 Baptist churches in the country affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Cameroon, a member of the Baptist World Alliance. Working with the English-language convention are 50 missionaries from the North American Baptist Conference based in Oak Brook Terrace, Ill.

The European Baptist Mission also has about 50 missionaries in the country, but in areas to the north and south, according to Max Staubli, associate general secretary of the mission based in Bad Homburg, West Germany. The mission works with churches in the French-language Baptist Union of Cameroon, also a BWA member.

No Southern Baptist missionaries are stationed in the west African nation.

The Baptist World Alliance has allocated \$5,000 in emergency funds for Cameroon.

About 15 North American Baptist Conference missionaries live within 30 miles of the disaster site.

"Our missionaries have gone into the area and are providing whatever relief and help and comfort they can to the survivors," said Fred Folkerts, associate director of business services for the conference's overseas department.

The conference also supports two hospitals within 30 miles of the site, one with 225 beds, the other with 90.

The conference is issuing an appeal for relief offerings to its 375 churches in the United States and Canada. There are 60,000 North American Baptists who support 85 missionaries in five countries. Their missionaries have worked in Cameroon since 1932. The Cameroon Baptist Convention encompasses 40,000 members, Folkerts said.

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Banks Urges US-2 Missionaries To
Be Of One Mind In Sharing Gospel

F - HMB

Baptist Press
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CONYERS, Ga. (BP)—Be of one heart, one mind and one purpose in sharing the gospel, 32 US-2 missionaries were urged during their commissioning service at Rockdale Baptist Church in Conyers, Ga.

The young missionaries, who were to complete a week of orientation at Georgia Baptist Assembly in Toccoa prior to beginning their two-year terms of service, will serve in 19 states, Puerto Rico and Canada.

"We can never win the world to Christ by simply commissioning missionaries. It is the task of every Christian to be reconcilers of men and women, boys and girls to Jesus Christ," said Bob Banks, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

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However, Banks continued, God gives a special call to those who extend their ministry through the missionary cause, and Southern Baptists affirm that call through their support and prayer for the missionaries.

"Though you are charged with a variety of responsibilities, remember that your primary task is to seek out people who need Christ. Do not get lost in the day-to-day workings of your job, but be of one heart, one mind and one purpose as you share the gospel."

Banks compared the missionaries to soldiers preparing for battle. "Life is a series of preparations for future service, and God is preparing you today for a challenge tomorrow. Be wise in the example you set," he explained.

Two of the missionaries, Esther Lamborn of Winterset, Iowa, and Mike Hadaway of Marietta, Ga., told of their personal calls to missions and of the challenges they face.

Lamborn related how, as a college freshman, she didn't have much money for Christmas presents but still gave her last \$5 to a missions offering. Within a matter of days, she received a \$50 check from a Baptist Woman's Missionary Union group which served to reinforce her commitment, she said.

"I was shocked how God had used my faithfulness and multiplied what little I had given to him. I am looking with anticipation at how he will multiply the small talent I have to offer him in ministry," she concluded.

Hadaway told how his being a missionary was the result of another Christian investing his time and knowledge in him. He challenged the congregation to place themselves into someone else's life in service to God.

US-2 missionaries are college graduates age 27 or younger who are appointed for a two-year term of service throughout the nation and its territories. They work in the areas of Christian social ministries, church extension, language missions, resort-leisure-special events, student work and evangelism.

The 32 missionaries commissioned by the board are working in Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico and Canada.

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Bible Study Kickoff Indicates
National Outreach Excitement

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press
8/27/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Response to an Outreach Bible Study kickoff telecast indicates national interest in a new approach to evangelism through the Sunday school, Harry Piland reported.

The Saturday, Aug. 23, telecast was viewed at almost 400 sites nationwide, and the scheduled one-hour session was extended 30 minutes to answer questions called in by viewers.

Piland, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday school department, said the response "seems to indicate an excitement among the churches that shows they are ready to launch out into a plan to reach persons they haven't reached before."

The telecast on the Baptist Telecommunication Network was an introduction to Outreach Bible Study and the Invitation to Bible Study curriculum materials for the eight-session evangelistic Bible study plan.

The materials are to be used in locations away from the church, where non-Christians may be more comfortable attending.

Based on the Gospel of Luke, the Bible study presents the plan of Christian salvation in language that may be understood by a person who has never been involved in church and might not understand the terms and language normally used in church, Piland said.

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More than 70 questions were received in the BTN studios and answered by a panel including Piland; Lloyd Elder, president of the Sunday School Board; Robert Hamblin, vice president for evangelism of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board; Louis Hanks, supervisor of the youth Sunday school curriculum section; Marshall Kennedy, editor in the Life and Work adult Sunday school curriculum section; and Jim Harvey, Outreach Bible Study consultant.

There were 360 official viewing sites planned by churches and associations and state convention offices throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. However, because the BTN signal was unscrambled and available to any satellite viewer, there were many other unofficial viewing sites, said Larry Shotwell, supervisor of the Sunday School Board's adult Sunday school program section.

Shotwell estimated more than 7,000 persons viewed the live telecast.

Callers indicated about 530 persons were watching the teleconference at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly in Eustis, Fla., and 300 persons viewed the teleconference at Mobile College in Mobile, Ala. In both locations the teleconference was scheduled as part of state Sunday school leadership training conferences.

More typical reports of attendance at viewing sites included 35 persons at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., seven at First Southern Baptist Church of Brentwood, Calif., and 20 at First Baptist Church of Vernal, Utah.

The kickoff telecast included a 20-minute pre-taped introduction to Outreach Bible Study with comments from persons who have used the materials in a pilot project in New England.

Mary Beth Caffey, a Mission Service Corps worker in Maine, reported a Bible study group which started with the eight-week Outreach Bible Study last October in Surry, Maine, probably will become a mission before this October.

Others reported several conversions and renewed involvement among persons who participated in the Outreach Bible Study sessions.

The Outreach Bible Study materials are available now for use when the project begins in October. The purpose of the kickoff telecast was to initiate training and answer questions people have about the plan or the materials, said Piland.

Outreach Bible Study is a part of Bold Mission Thrust goals for the Sunday School Board. The Sunday school department has set a goal of having 10,000 outreach Bible studies conducted by 1990.

Hamblin said Outreach Bible Study fits into the Southern Baptist Bold Mission Thrust goals of reaching every person in the nation with the gospel and having 50,000 Southern Baptist churches by 2000.

"This gives us a new tool for reaching out to people. It takes the gospel to people where they are," Hamblin said.

As in the pilot program in Surry, Maine, Outreach Bible Study will be effective in helping start new churches, Hamblin said.

Questions asked by viewers during the telecast ranged from the availability of materials in other languages to how to enlist participants in the Bible study sessions.

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

Canadian Baptists Set Priority
For Training College Students

By Frank Wm. White

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Making student ministries a convention-wide priority may have averted a leadership crisis in the Canadian Convention for Southern Baptists, said Henry Blackaby, a Canadian director of missions.

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Blackaby, a former pastor and now director of missions for the Capilano Southern Baptist Association in Vancouver, British Columbia, told church and campus student leaders meeting at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center student ministry has been a priority for Canadian Baptists because students are the hope of the future.

The priority of student work is not to establish student unions but to reach students who are willing to be involved in ministry, Blackaby said during the national student ministries-sponsored conference. "We're not talking about theory," he insisted. "It has worked."

Many current leaders of Canadian Baptist associations first became involved through campus ministry, he said. The convention would be devoid of native leadership if churches had not realized the need in 1970 to cultivate college students as future leaders, he continued.

As a pastor at the time, Blackaby said, he and others determined that Canadian pastors, not mission pastors from the United States, would be most capable of winning Canada for Christ.

At the time, Canadian Baptists had no one in a Baptist seminary. Blackaby's church, Faith Baptist in, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, began training students in its own seminary-type training school.

Now, at least 43 Canadian students are attending seminaries in the United States. A Canadian Baptist seminary will begin classes in Calgary, Alberta, in the fall of 1987.

Blackaby said Faith Baptist began a ministry to college students by challenging them to become involved.

He said college students often accept a challenge from the world because the church doesn't offer one. "The world provides greater challenges than the church does. We need to give them a challenge to see what they can do," he said.

When students became involved in Faith Baptist Church, they were catalysts for starting missions and other churches. Students have played an active role as the church has started more than 30 other churches and missions. From the one church with 25 members in 1970, there now are two associations with more than 2,000 members. "Student work has played a large part in that development," Blackaby said.

When Canadian Baptists first began receiving Southern Baptist Home Mission Board assistance in 1978, the convention set a priority of funding for student ministries because of the impact college students had already had in the convention. "Many churches have seen the benefits of student work because of summer missionaries from the States and in Canadian student work," Blackaby said.

Now, Canadian Baptists with only 80 churches have student work on 20 campuses. Blackaby predicted that total will increase to more than 50 campuses within five years.

"Canadian Baptists are focusing on church planting, and students are one of the greatest assets in church planting," he said.

Many students who participate in church planting later go into full-time ministry, Blackaby said.

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Students Develop Models
For Tomorrow's Churches

By Frank Wm. White

Baptist Press
8/27/86

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Southern Baptist churches of future decades may be considerably different from today's churches if students who attended the Glorieta (N.M.) Student Conference are influential in shaping them.

The students likely would plan churches with soup kitchens and boarding rooms, diverse ethnic and economic makeup and need-oriented mission activities rather than the traditional church with a worship center, Sunday morning worship and Sunday school.

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The students also showed a shallow denominational loyalty, indicating they would take their churches out of the convention and continue their ministry rather than become involved in denominational squabbles.

Because of the variations from the traditional church evident in the students' models, "convention leaders need to prepare for a much different church by the year 2000," said Sam Douglass, university minister of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, who developed the modeling exercise.

Based on the models presented, Douglass predicted the church of the future will have an open worship format and a come-as-you-are attitude. Praise choruses will replace traditional hymns and dramatic interpretations will supplement, if not replace, sermons.

Church models developed by the students included one called Surfside Baptist Church of Malibu, Calif., which would minister to yuppies and beach bums.

A model for Central Park Baptist Church in New York City proposed a ministry center, soup kitchen, boarding rooms and recreation facilities instead of a worship center. Worship services would be at 10:30 Saturday mornings in Central Park—when more people would be in the park, the students surmised.

One church model was designed around a health care ministry because several of the students involved in the planning had medical skills and training but none had music or preaching abilities.

The Living Water model church—devoid of "Baptist" or "church" in the name—championed ethnic diversity. It would have an early service in Spanish, Sunday school and then a late service in English.

A lack of denominational loyalty was evident in many of the church models which dropped Baptist from the name.

"The students will be true to what they think is right, and unity will be based on ministry, not denominational loyalty," Douglass explained.

Douglass cited an alarming lack of doctrinal knowledge among the students. "We need to get on with training college students in doctrine. Sunday school and church training need to get moving with doctrinal training for college students," he said.

Douglass noted he designed the week-long modeling exercise so students would wrestle with the things a church planting team would encounter.

The modeling exercise was based on a topical Bible study by Bill Hendricks, professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Hendricks discussed Bible teachings on the church as the body of Christ, the salt of the earth, the elect people, the bride of Christ and the family.

Douglass said the most immediate impact of the exercise will be that the students will become better church members. "They will become uncomfortable as pew sitters because they know what it takes to make a church work," he said.

The church modeling exercise was one of the features of the Glorieta Student Conference, which drew more than 2,500 participants. A concurrent student conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center had more than 1,500 participants. The conferences were sponsored by national student ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.