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Missionary, Volunteer
Injured In Car Accident

TRUJILLO, Peru (BP)--Southern Baptist missionary Ken Bowie and volunteer Bob Kersten were injured seriously in a one-car accident in central Peru Sept. 1 when the automobile Bowie was driving went off a mountain road and down an embankment. The car plunged some 20 feet to a dry river bed.

Bowie and Kersten were hospitalized in Trujillo. Bowie suffered a dislocated shoulder, cracked ribs and two fractured vertebrae in the accident. He also received a deep cut around his right eye that took 44 stitches to close.

Kersten suffered three cracked vertebrae. He was released from the hospital Sept. 6 after being placed in a plaster body cast because an aluminum brace was not available. He was flown Sept. 8 from Lima to Miami, where his son met him at the airport and took him to Orlando, Fla., his hometown. Kersten is dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Bowie, a native of McLouth, Kan., was expected to remain hospitalized in Trujillo until sometime in mid-September.

Bowie told Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials he apparently "blacked out" while driving Kersten to Cajamarca after meeting his plane in Lima. Bryan Brasington, the board's area director for Spanish South America, said that although doctors are not sure what caused the blackout, there is speculation it may have been produced by a hemorrhage.

A Peruvian neurologist recommended 21 days of rest in bed and then appropriate medical tests. Since one of the tests, an angiogram, cannot be done in Peru, Foreign Mission Board health officials have recommended that Bowie, 37, return to the United States as soon as he is able to travel.

In addition to the tests, Brasington said the cut around Bowie's eye may require plastic surgery to repair the tissue. That operation presumably would be done when Bowie returns to the United States.

Recalling the treacherous terrain of the area in which the accident occurred, Brasington said the men were "fortunate the injuries were not more serious."

Bowie, an agricultural evangelist, has supervised the construction of several irrigation canals in the Cajamarca area and now is involved in digging water wells. He was featured last fall in two foreign mission study videos, "Tools Missionaries Use" for children and "The Missionary Overseas" for adults.

Kersten has made several trips as a volunteer to help Bowie in those projects. The Floridian was in Peru to see what had been accomplished since his last work there and to survey other possible sites for wells.

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Volunteers Help Saragosa Find
Physical, Spiritual Rebirth

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
9/10/87

SARAGOSA, Texas (BP)--The Labor Day weekend became a weekend labor of love for more than 700 volunteers who helped the tornado-ravaged western Texas town of Saragosa experience physical and spiritual rebirth.

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In an around-the-clock effort Sept. 5-7, the volunteers -- mostly Southern Baptists from Texas and surrounding states -- joined in a "Labor Day Workathon" to rebuild the Hispanic Catholic community of 350 people that was leveled by a tornado May 22.

By sundown Sept. 7, Baptists, Mennonites and other volunteers had repaired 30 homes, built two new houses and brought 19 other new homes to within 80 percent of completion.

A group of retiree builders and several other individual volunteers were expected to continue working in Saragosa through Sept. 11.

As a result of personal visits and the impact made by volunteer builders, 29 people at Saragosa made professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Two people who joined in the building effort also made commitments to Christ.

Two home Bible studies also were established in the town, which had no Baptist church prior to the tornado.

"Wisdom is seeing Saragosa as God sees it; understanding is responding to the needs here as God would," Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men, told the volunteers. "When Jesus walked the earth in his physical body, he went where people were hurting. As the body of Christ today, we should be found around the world in places like this."

"When it is all over and the people of Saragosa think back on this weekend, my prayer is that they will remember a group of people who loved God and who showed his love to them," said William M. Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

In the near future, a community center is expected to be built in Saragosa using local labor under the supervision of the church building and support section of the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission, said D.L. Lowrie, commission director. Funds for the project will be provided by a grant from the Dallas-based Meadows Foundation.

"The challenge for the future is the 37 homes that remain to be built in Saragosa," said John LaNoue, on-site coordinator for Texas Baptist Men. "It would be wonderful if individual churches or groups of churches in an association would link up with individual families here to rebuild the remaining houses."

One Saragosan who made a personal commitment to Christ as a result of Baptist response to the tornado was Ernest Bordayo. He was in the pasture behind his house, trying to corral a mare when the storm hit. Lightning struck the horse a few feet from him, and he was rushed to the Pecos, Texas, hospital where doctors feared for his life for several hours.

"What has happened to me and what these men are doing, building my house, makes me think about Jesus," Bordayo said. "I want to try my best to serve Jesus myself. I want to be a better servant for Jesus and get my family close to his church."

Volunteers from Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas, who did much of the work on Bordayo's new house, presented him with a family Bible, several childrens' picture Bibles and a blue silk-flower welcome wreath for his door. A women's Sunday school class at South Main Baptist Church in Houston provided funds to buy curtains for the house.

"We're going to try to stay in touch with Ernest and his family," said Mary Jane Avery of Calvary Baptist. "This is not just a flash-in-the-pan kind of thing. We're friends now."

Bonnie Gay of Shreveport, La., who was a Rio Grande River Ministry summer missionary and worked extensively with the children of Saragosa, returned for Labor Day weekend with 16 young people from the Baptist Student Union at Northeast Louisiana University and four high school youth from Bastrop, La.

Alongside 22 youth from Fielder Road Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, they conducted a Sunday afternoon day camp that attracted 43 children ages 2 to 14 from Saragosa and Balmorhea.

"They say an act of God destroyed these homes," said Dusty Rhodes of First Baptist Church of Round Rock, Texas. "I hope these people will remember it was an act of God that brought us all together here to rebuild."

Manuel Galindo, liaison between volunteers, government agencies and the Saragosa citizens building committee, said the true measure of the good done during the Labor Day weekend will be seen in the lives of Saragosa residents.

"The people say now, 'We know the unconditional love of Christ is real because we have seen it. We have seen a sermon walking and working as we've seen our houses go up,'" he reported.

"The volunteers are leaving behind more than just nails and boards and a little sweat. The hammering away that they are hearing now will continue hammering away in their hearts."

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(Editor's Note: Following is the third of a four-part series on church conflict.)

Involving Laypeople
Helps Resolve Conflict

By Jim Lowry

Baptist Press
9/10/87

NASHVILLE (BP)--Church staff members can manage congregational conflict more effectively by involving laypeople in planning and decision making, two pastors who have enjoyed longer-than-average tenures in their churches claimed.

Equally important, said Harry Lucenay, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss., for seven years, is that staff members and churches do not fight over little things and allow them to become major issues.

"Pastors should choose their battles," Lucenay explained. "There are a lot of little things I would have fought over when I was younger. For instance, the kingdom of God is not affected by green or pink walls.

"I try to make decisions by principle, not emotion," he continued. "There are theological and church polity principles which must be observed regardless of who is making a proposal or raising a question.

"The church has got to interpret Scripture and stick with that interpretation. We do not vote to be biblical," he said. "You have got to love people you disagree with and still respect each other."

To avoid potential conflicts, Lucenay said, he frequently talks to opinion leaders and others in the church to test an idea. When those people understand, then they tell their friends, and information is shared effectively.

At Forest Park Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., where Chester Jernigan was pastor for 21 years, information sharing between church members was a key ingredient for developing a strong leadership and family fellowship. Jernigan recently was named vice president for development at the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

When he became pastor in 1966, the church was losing members because of construction of an interstate highway a short distance from its property that physically split the neighborhood. Many people sold their homes and moved away from the church.

The church also was behind on the budget and losing members. To address problems, church members identified specific needs of members and residents in the neighborhood and then sought to start ministries in those areas.

"We decided to focus on people," Jernigan said. "We avoided potential conflict by becoming involved in ministries outside of ourselves and outside the church."

Over the years, some of the ministries sponsored by the church included Vacation Bible School, nutrition classes, a tutoring program, dental hygiene classes, senior adult activities, day care, and a weekly soup, salad and Scripture luncheon.

Jernigan said much of the success has come from placing emphasis on involving the deacons and the church council through planning, where they established priorities and set goals together.

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Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said sharing of ministry and expectations between staff and church members will almost certainly have a positive effect in a church.

"When people are working toward a common biblical goal, they share interests and information which brings them together to strengthen fellowship and accomplish their task," Stacker said. "Working together allows a church to deal with change and focus on ministering to others in Jesus' name."

"It is important to hear what people say and what they do not say," he continued. The more people are involved in decision making, leadership and implementation, the more they are willing to participate.

"Positive changes in churches produce longer tenure, if the pastor is willing to plant his life with a congregation and discipline himself through prayer, preparation and patience," explained Jernigan.

Openness and honest self-evaluation are keys to dealing with conflict, Jernigan said, even though fear generally is the initial reaction.

"Fellowship is the cohesive ingredient that bonds the people of God and gives inroads for working with conflict and many times avoiding conflict," he said.

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

Southwestern Seminary Obtains
Missions Periodicals Collection

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's library has increased its periodicals collection by one-third by acquiring the entire periodicals collection of the Overseas Missionary Study Center.

The study center provides training for North American missionaries and overseas church leaders in an interdenominational fellowship. The center recently relocated to New Haven, Conn., and sold its library holdings.

The periodicals collection includes 817 titles and is valued at \$65,000, said Carl Wrotenbery, director of Southwestern's A. Webb Roberts Library on the Fort Worth, Texas, campus.

Southwestern already was receiving 1,800 periodical titles regularly. Of the 817 added titles, 600 will be new additions to the Southwestern collection, he said.

Wrotenbery described Gerald Anderson, director of the Overseas Missionary Study Center, as "one of the world's leading authorities on mission techniques, mission methods and the progress mission societies are making."

Anderson "personally had a hand in putting this collection together," Wrotenbery said. This is significant because Anderson edits a leading journal that reviews periodicals and books in missionary activity.

The new periodicals added to Southwestern's collection of missiology books will benefit furloughing missionaries "who desire to research some particular aspect of missionary endeavor," Wrotenbery said.

"With approximately 50 percent of all missionaries under appointment of the SBC Home and Foreign Mission boards receiving their training at Southwestern, the library staff anticipates widespread use of the new collection," he said.

This collection also helps Southwestern address a need for more Third World and foreign language periodicals. "This is the outstanding collection of missionary periodicals relating to Third World countries that has come on the market within the last decade," Wrotenbery said.

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"These publications are coming from most of the continents of the world," he said. "Therefore the collection gives the advanced student an ability to research missions as they exist in the world in one of the most complete collections of current periodicals existing in the country."

Periodicals are considered excellent sources of information on missions because they contain more recent data and because missionaries developing new methods are more likely to have time to write articles than books.

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Seminary Student
Is A Real Card

By Scott Collins

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9/10/87

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Some Baptists would be shocked to learn that a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student is dealing cards to pay his way through school.

Even though these cards involve high stakes, they wouldn't be any help in a poker game. Les Springs deals in bubble gum baseball cards.

Like many kids, Springs accumulated boxes and boxes bulging with baseball cards. But unlike most kids, Springs traded those boxes for financial support.

Springs' boyhood hobby had become his business before coming to seminary. He was part owner and manager of two stores in Oklahoma City specializing in bubble gum cards.

Such an enterprise is "big business," Springs said. He knows one man who recently paid \$15 apiece for 152 cards of rookie sensation Mark McGwire. That's more than a \$2,000 investment.

Dealers make money in the same way stock market investors do. They buy cards hoping the value will go up. The key is to sell the cards when the player pictured reaches his peak.

When Springs came to seminary in 1983, he sold his baseball card collection for "several thousand dollars," he said. "We were going to use it for a nest egg." But when his wife had difficulty finding work, Springs shuffled his plans and used the card money to support his family of four for six months.

As a seminary student, Springs isn't interested in rebuilding his own collection. He acts as middleman to help others build collections. This gives him a job he likes with flexible hours.

During an earlier crisis, Springs committed his life to Christ. In 1980, Springs was attending the Alabama State Fair where he had a booth selling cards. One night he returned to his motel room depressed.

Picking up a Good News Bible, he began reading verses he had memorized as a child. He had gone to church on Christmas and Easter and played on the church softball team. Thanks to the occasional influence of Christ, he knew about Christ. But that night he was convicted of his need and prayed to receive Christ. "I didn't know the term salvation, but I knew there was a change in my life," Springs said.

Since moving to Fort Worth, Springs' family has faced major medical bills. The total came to thousands of dollars. Springs' goal was to pay all the bills before he graduates in December.

And thanks to the baseball cards, the family already is debt-free, he said.

But Springs wants to keep his hobby in perspective. He recently turned down an offer to work in a nearby card shop. Springs told the owner, "My calling is to the ministry, and ball cards are secondary."

When God called Springs to ministry, "all the cards lost their value," he said.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Seminary