



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Alvin C. Shackelford, 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, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550
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. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 4, 1988

88-176

Southern Baptists commemorate
atrocities of 'Kristallnacht'

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptists commemorate the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, a night of Nazi-sponsored anti-Jewish riots, with "deep regret and strong resolve," the head of the denomination's ethics agency said.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, expressed the remarks in "Kristallnacht Observance: Anti-Semitism and Christian Response," a statement to the world Jewish community. The statement was delivered to B'nai B'rith, the Jewish men's fellowship, Nov. 3.

"Nov. 9, 1988, will mark the 50th anniversary of one of the saddest events in the 20th century, 'Kristallnacht,' the Night of Broken Glass, when Hitler's thugs carried out systematic riots against Jews in Nazi Germany and Austria," Land wrote.

The atrocity was sparked when a Jewish student in Paris -- despondent over learning his family was among 18,000 Polish Jews deported from Germany but denied entry into Poland -- assassinated a German embassy official whom he mistook for the ambassador.

The head of the German state police subsequently sent a secret telegram to all state police stations, instructing officers to coordinate police and political activities that would incite the riots.

On that night, 91 Jews were killed, 30,000 were deported to concentration camps, 191 synagogues were burned and 7,000 Jewish shops and businesses were looted.

"Kristallnacht signalled the commencement of the Holocaust which led, within seven years, to the systematic murder of 6 million Jews in the Nazi death camps," Land wrote. "We commemorate the 50th anniversary of this terrible event, both with deep regret and strong resolve:

-- "We deeply regret that public indignation over this heinous event was not stronger. Yes, strong statements of protest were made. However, since strong actions did not accompany the verbal denunciations, all they accomplished was to teach the Nazis to be more secretive.

-- "We resolve to remember the lessons of Kristallnacht. First, such degradation of human beings, left unchecked, will only ensure its escalation to unimaginable proportions. Second, mere recrimination and outrage are insufficient responses. Third, we must do something to stop such savagery. We must resolve together that it will never happen again."

Land added: "Remembrance without commitment to action in the present is inadequate:

-- "We commit ourselves as Christians and as Southern Baptists to speak out against anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it occurs. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors. ... Our New Testament teaches us that in God's sight 'there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female.' ...

"All men and women are of unique and inestimable value to our Heavenly Father. Anti-Semitism is surely the most irrational of prejudices for followers of Jesus of Nazareth, a Jew.

-- "We commit ourselves to express our condolences to our Jewish friends in their time of grief and painful memory of personal loss on the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the harbinger of the Holocaust. Further, we express solidarity with them, resolving to do everything within our power to ensure that it will never happen again, anywhere, anytime, to anyone.

--more--

-- "We commit ourselves to preach on the biblical message of the unique dignity and worth of all human beings, regardless of race and/or creed.

-- "We commit ourselves to teach our children that all human beings are created in the image of God, deserving love and respect.

-- "We commit ourselves to pray and to work to recognize and to transform our prejudices toward others.

-- "We commit ourselves to minister to those consumed with fear, anger and misunderstanding toward others.

-- "We commit ourselves to never forget and to never remain silent again."

Land told Baptist Press Christians must speak against anti-Semitism on the anniversary of Kristallnacht for several reasons:

"It is important because there is evidently a lingering fear in the minds of many Jewish people in this country that many evangelical Protestants are anti-Semitic. I profoundly don't think that is true, but we need to do more than we have done to make it clear that is not the case.

"Secondly, we have seen an increase in the incidence of outrageously anti-Semitic behavior in our society."

Christians also must be vigilant to ensure that history does not repeat itself, he said.

"If the lesson of Kristallnacht and the Holocaust teaches us anything, it is that you can never treat even a perceived isolated incident of racism without speaking out against it," he explained. "The chilling fact is that this is not a problem that was isolated to Germany. What happened in Germany could happen anywhere."

Christians' message to Jews should be clear, he said, adding, "What we are saying to our Jewish friends is that we will resist anti-Semitism with every fiber of our being."

--30--

Farming plan receives
two major recognitions

Baptist Press
11/4/88

KINUSKUSAN, Philippines (BP)--The Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center, run by Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines, has received two national awards.

The awards came from the Philippine government and an independent group concerned with consumer rights and welfare.

During its Farmer's Week celebration, the government's agriculture department gave the Baptist center a special award for making an effort "to improve the delivery of services to farmers" and "increase total farm productivity through SALT."

SALT, or Sloping Agricultural Land Technology, was developed by Southern Baptist missionary Harold Watson of Brooklyn, Miss., and his staff to reclaim barren hillsides for farming. Watson directs the center.

The agriculture department described SALT as "an effective land-use management and conservation system to answer the needs of upland farmers." Without SALT, upland farmers generally have only five years to farm a piece of land after they clear it before erosion washes away the usable soil.

Konsumo Dabaw, a nonprofit voluntary consumer organization, gave its Anwar Fazal Award to the Baptist center, calling it a "model worthy of emulation." The group's awards committee commended the center for teaching techniques in organic farming and self-reliant farm life. "The concept of alternative and integrated farming close to nature, away from chemicals and other artificial means, has inspired farmers, excursionists and visitors," the committee said.

--more--

SALT uses a technique of natural terracing. Farmers plant hedges of fast-growing trees across hillsides, causing fertile soil to accumulate between the hedges and flatten strips of land for crops. Tests show that SALT, if implemented correctly, could increase an upland farmer's income by 5,000 percent, from \$15 per hectare, or about 2.5 acres, to as much as \$750 per hectare. About 60 percent of the Philippines' total land area of 30 million hectares is sloping or hilly.

SALT has become widely known throughout Asia and has drawn interest worldwide among agriculturists. Watson estimates about three-fourths of all farm families in developing nations fight the problems of hillside erosion and could benefit from SALT.

In 1985 Watson received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for international understanding, often called the "Nobel Prize of Asia," for his campaign to encourage international use of hillside farming techniques.

--30--

Rescue opens
doors in Mali

Baptist Press
11/4/88

BAMAKO, Mali (BP)--Fire swept through a village in Mali, and Southern Baptist missionaries Dick and Jeannette Smith went to the rescue, not knowing their action would open doors to share Christ.

The fire destroyed villagers' clothing, blankets, food and seeds for the approaching planting season. Stunned villagers huddled in silent groups.

That night, missionaries supplied blankets and drinking water. The next day, they took 30 sleeping mats, 200 pounds of millet and some water pots. For several days after the village fire, missionary vehicles brought bamboo and materials to rebuild straw roof homes. Neighboring villagers helped.

About 250 villagers, nearly all non-Christians, attended a meal to celebrate the rebuilding of the village. They asked Smith, who is from Sikeston, Mo., to speak. He talked about the resurrection of Christ. "Someday, I would like to come and tell you about him," he added.

Not long afterwards, villagers went to Smith's home and said they wanted to hear about Christ -- not tomorrow or the next day, but today.

--30--

Tutterow accepts
N.C. pastorate

Baptist Press
11/4/88

ATLANTA (BP)--Michael R. Tutterow, associate editor of SBC Today, has been called as pastor of Mars Hill Baptist Church in Mars Hill, N.C., effective Dec. 1, 1988.

Tutterow joined the staff of SBC Today, an autonomous journal of news and opinion affiliated with the moderate wing of the Southern Baptist Convention, in 1985. He also began theological studies at Candler School of Theology of Emory University in Atlanta.

In 1980, Tutterow was appointed a US-2 missionary by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, assigned to the agency's editorial department. Following the two-year appointment, he joined the board's editorial staff as a newswriter and later became assistant news editor.

He is the recipient of five Baptist Public Relations awards for journalism for his coverage of home missions, as well as the 10-year-old SBC theological-political controversy.

Before moving to Atlanta, Tutterow worked as minister of youth at two churches in Ohio, and from 1977 to 1980 was director of Baptist Student Union ministries at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

He is a graduate of Wright State, and of Candler. He is married to the former Vicki McGaughey, an information manager with an Atlanta consulting firm.

--30--

CORRECTION: In BP story titled "Cuban Baptists transfer SBC missions relationships" dated 11/3/88, please substitute the following paragraph for the next to the last one.

Romo also presented plaques to Carneado and Suarez in appreciation for their contributions, which included enabling the Home Mission Board to ship 10,000 Bibles into Cuba. The Baptist World Alliance is sending an additional 40,000 Bibles.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

New missionaries bolster
evangelism in Argentina

By Gail Tucker

Baptist Press
11/4/88

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--Veteran missionaries in Argentina prayed for reinforcements. Now they are busy coping with the answers to their prayers.

More than half of the 105 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Argentina are in their first term of service. During 1986 and 1987 alone, 38 new missionaries with 45 children arrived in the country.

They came from nine states, with backgrounds in music, business, engineering, social ministries, teaching and the pastorate. Their ages range from the 20s to the 50s.

"About five years ago the missionaries covenanted together to begin praying for lots of new missionary families," explained Ted Stanton, who has led the mission organization as president for two years. Missionaries used their newsletters, U.S. furloughs and every other opportunity they had to encourage people to consider service in Argentina.

Assimilating a large number of new families in a short time is not easy for a mission, the missionaries said. They have cars to buy, houses to rent, new people to orient to the mission and the culture, and new children to place in schools.

But to Stanton, what really matters is that God has sent new laborers. "We have people in areas, both work assignment and geographic areas, where we have never had missionaries before," he said.

Marion Lineberger of Mount Holly, N.C., executive officer of the mission, believes evangelical work in Argentina is entering a new era of opportunity. "For years the people of Argentina were not open to the gospel," he said. "The majority had no interest at all, but a series of events in the recent past has caused the people to turn toward something more stable."

He cited the Falkland Islands War, the financial crunch of a failing economy and the so-called "dirty war" waged by former military governments in an effort to rid the country of terrorism as some of the events that have disturbed the Argentines.

"Our missionary force was dwindling, and we needed reinforcements," Lineberger added. "God has answered our prayers at a time when the harvest is ripe and many people are open to the gospel and searching for the truth."

Lee and Lisa Taylor, for example, are working in Zapala, a desert town of 30,000 people. They are the first missionaries to live there, and their presence is an answer to many years of prayer by Argentines and other missionaries. The Taylors are natives of Waycross, Ga.

One Baptist church has functioned in Zapala for more than 50 years. It currently has 80 members. In addition to working with the church, Taylor has started new work in two neighboring communities. One of them, Chos Malal, is a 250-mile round trip each week for Taylor. But he said the distance is a small price to pay for what is happening in that city of 8,000 people.

Two Baptists had moved to Chos Malal when no Baptist work existed. They began worship services in a home. Now 15 adults meet weekly, and they have the money and land to build a church, thanks to Southern Baptist aid.

--more--

Many of the new missionary families point to the response of the people as an affirmation of their call to work in often-difficult situations. Two weeks after Steve and Vidonia Smith arrived in San Juan, both spoke at a women's meeting. Twenty-five of the 200 women present that day accepted Christ as savior.

Smith travels weekly to an agricultural area about nine miles from San Juan. The people raise garlic and grapes; the average income is about \$1 a day. In January, Smith began a preaching service with no more than 10 people present. By October, up to 50 were attending.

Government officials have asked Smith to go into another community to tend to the spiritual needs of 30 families living there. They said a Catholic priest had not been in the isolated area in several years. The area, Las Chacras, has no electricity, and roads are impassable for many months of the year.

The Smiths are Mississippians; he is from Hattiesburg, and she is from White Oak.

Another first-term missionary summed up the feelings of the newer families in Argentina: "The fruit we are bearing here is much more permanent than that jar of peanut butter or the Snickers that we can't get here. Now we are looking at the world a little more like God sees it, and it's bigger than the United States. He needs me in Argentina."

--30--

Gail Tucker is Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Argentina.

Southwestern Seminary president
teaching Sunday school on ACTS

Baptist Press
11/4/88

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--When Russell Dilday teaches the Convention Uniform Lesson each week for the ACTS Network, he is surrounded by students.

Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is taking the classroom into more than 8 million homes beginning this fall. The program is called "The Good News" and airs at 5:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. CST.

And while Dilday teaches, Southwestern students also are learning, but not about the Sunday school lesson. The students are producing the weekly program for ACTS.

Working as camera operators, directors and technicians, the students are using the program as a laboratory to learn the "nuts and bolts" of television production.

The 30-minute program is designed to provide help for Sunday school teachers who will be teaching the same lesson on Sunday.

Darrel Baergen, director of Southwestern's Center for Christian Communications Studies, said the production provides students the opportunity "to work on a network program and gives viewers the opportunity to study the Bible with Dr. Dilday."

Between 30 and 40 students are involved in production of the program at various stages, Baergen said.

"The students are involved with television that has teaching as its goal," he added. "That application seems to be especially meaningful to our students. The goal is the teaching of the Bible."

Dilday will teach 52 lessons during the year, beginning with a series titled "Through Suffering to Hope." Other lessons are taken from the Gospel of Luke, four New Testament epistles and studies in Joshua, Judges and Ruth.

Judy Baergen, executive producer of the programs, said Dilday also will feature Southwestern professors and other well-known scholars. Dennis Parrish, instructor in communications, is directing the programs.

--30--

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