



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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June 8, 1989

89-91

Two students safely  
reach Beijing hotel

By Erich Bridges

N- FMB

BEIJING, China (BP)--Southern Baptist students Jay Templeton and Jana Clayton safely reached the Holiday Inn near Beijing's airport June 7, joining the throng of foreigners trying to leave the embattled Chinese capital.

The two were marooned for several days at the Second Foreign Language Institute in Beijing, where they were studying Chinese under the sponsorship of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist organization.

School officials transported the two students to the hotel complex. "It took a while to get there," reported Templeton's father, Southern Baptist missionary Logan Templeton, in Hong Kong. "I guess they went a roundabout way. But there was no problem."

Templeton talked to his son by telephone after the two students reached the hotel. He said they had plane tickets to Hong Kong on a June 10 flight, but might leave China sooner if they can get on an earlier plane.

The younger Templeton, of Kingsland, Texas, and Clayton, of Longmont, Colo., witnessed lines of tanks rolling past the language institute in the days following the bloody army attack on student demonstrators June 3 in Tiananmen Square. Enraged Chinese students at the institute threw rocks and erected barricades to stop the tanks, but the campus did not become a military target. Witnesses said troops entered a nearby university campus and killed some students there.

U.S. officials warned the more than 1,400 Americans in Beijing to leave as soon as possible. American diplomatic dependents were preparing to leave Beijing June 7 after gunfire aimed at a diplomatic residence compound shattered windows.

Cooperative Services International staff in Hong Kong were still trying to contact all of the Southern Baptist teachers or students sponsored by CSI on Chinese university campuses, most of whom are leaving the country or are expected to leave in the coming days.

Personnel already contacted and planning to depart include Ron and Ina Winstead of St. Peters, Mo., at the Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering; their daughter, Rhonda Winstead, at Nanjing University; Glen and Rose Davis of Frankfort, Ky., at Nanjing Pharmaceutical College; Kenneth and Lou Ann Locke of Chapel Hill, N.C., at Guanxi University in Nanning; Don and Robin Martin of Sugar Land, Texas, at Fujian Agricultural College in Fuzhou; and Buckley and Ann Qualls of Corpus Christi, Texas, at Yantai University in Shandong Province.

A group of Southern Baptist teachers from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., was reported to be enroute from Wuhu in Anhui Province to the United States. Another group, composed of California Baptists, was trying to reach Hong Kong from Kunming.

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Samford University study group  
looking to leave China soon

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Baptist Press  
6/8/89

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Samford University students and faculty on a study trip to Wuhu, China, will be coming home earlier than intended.

Although Anhui Normal University at Wuhu is 600 miles from Beijing, and the group was in no apparent danger, Samford officials are working to arrange transportation out of the country.

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The 18 students and six faculty members departed Wuhu for a three-hour bus ride to Hefei June 6.

The 24-member group had been at Anhui University in Wuhu on a study trip since May 31 and had planned to return home June 29. The group includes Samford English professor Margaret Brodnax, who has been an exchange professor at Anhui during the spring semester.

All members of the group are safe and doing fine, according to Telex messages received at Samford.

Samford University president Thomas E. Corts is working with the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai to arrange a charter flight from Hefei to Hong Kong as soon as possible. If charter arrangements cannot be made, the group will fly from Hefei to Canton on an already guaranteed flight on June 11. From Canton, they will travel to Hong Kong by train.

One Telex from faculty members Andy Rucks, Jim Brown and Bob Stiles indicated the travelers have been receiving news reports from the British Broadcast Corporation.

Corts spoke with Jerry Barrett, a former Samford faculty member who is now a missionary in Hong Kong, on Tuesday morning.

"He said he did not believe the students to be in any danger," said Corts.

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Chinese student praying  
for family in Shanghai

F - CO  
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press  
6/8/89

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Jia-Eng Zhang finds it hard to accept what has happened to his countrymen in Beijing, and he prays daily that the violence won't spread to his native Shanghai, China's largest city.

"It was reported the army was moving toward Shanghai and is now in the suburbs," said Zhang, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Zhang is concerned for the safety of his family. His 86-year-old mother, three sisters and one brother live in a former Baptist compound in the heart of Shanghai. He was able to talk briefly with them by phone.

"They say everything is still peaceful in Shanghai," Zhang said, "but we told them to just stay at home and not go out. They say they receive VOA (Voice of America), and they can also listen to news from BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation)."

Working on a degree in church social services at Southwestern, Zhang is the seminary's only student from mainland China. He is one of the first students the Chinese government has allowed to attend the seminary since the country cut off relations with the United States in 1949.

Zhang is no stranger to government persecution himself. His father, now deceased, was a graduate of a seminary at the University of Shanghai, a Baptist school, and became a Baptist preacher. The elder Zhang was executive director of the Baptist Convention in Gianshu Province and worked closely with the late Baker James Cauthen, a missionary to China who later became executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

During China's Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s, religious freedom was denied. Bibles were burned and the government refused to give Zhang's father his pension.

Churches still grew despite the persecution, Zhang said, and religious freedom improved drastically when China adopted its Open Door Policy in 1978.

"Things have gotten better and better," said Zhang, who worries what effect the massacre and its aftermath will have on Christians in China. "It depends on who will be in charge," he said, adding many of China's hardline conservatives are against the religious freedom that resulted from the Open Door Policy.

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Zhang keeps with the situation in China through television reports and through a friend in Denton (Texas) who has direct phone contact with Beijing. From that source he learned that a group of Christians who were having a prayer meeting on the streets of Beijing during the protests were fired upon by soldiers.

Zhang still finds it difficult to believe what is happening in his homeland. "When I saw the massacre (on television), emotionally I could not accept that," he said. "At first I only showed concern about the student demonstration, but by and by the situation became worse and worse and then finally the bloodshed and killing (happened). That makes my nerves tremble."

Supportive of the students' demands for a clean government, free speech and a free press, Zhang said they are a natural result of modernization in China and the influx of Western ideas.

"We need that," he said. "Without political reform, the economic reforms cannot solve the problems of the country."

Zhang hopes to return to China after his graduation from Southwestern and teach at the seminary in Shanghai or work in Christian social ministries.

"My family has prayer for these students and also for the leaders," Zhang said. "Sometimes you have to pray for your enemy."

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Southern Baptist teachers  
leaving China for now

By Erich Bridges

N-FMB  
Baptist Press  
6/8/89

BEIJING (BP)--As China descended further into chaos June 6, most of the Southern Baptist teachers and students on Chinese university campuses prepared to leave for Hong Kong.

The 45 Southern Baptists sponsored in China by Cooperatives Services International include language students Jay Templeton and Jana Clayton in Beijing. The two were marooned on campus at the Second Foreign Language Institute as Chinese troops arrived in the city shot at citizens and each other.

Templeton and Clayton were to be transported to a hotel complex near the Beijing airport sometime June 6 or 7 to join other foreigners seeking to get out of the city. U.S. officials urged all Americans in Beijing to leave as soon as possible while various military units continued sporadic firing at civilians and appeared to be preparing to battle among themselves for control of the capital.

Southern Baptist teachers in other cities planned to depart for Hong Kong. Classes taught by most of them have not been held for days or weeks, and the end of the spring school term is approaching.

"We're leaving it up to the teachers to decide whether they will come out or not, but most will probably leave in the next 10 days," said Britt Towery of Cooperative Services International's Hong Kong office.

CSI Director Lewis Myers announced cancellation of summer teaching programs which had been scheduled to bring 35 or more Southern Baptist teachers to China in the coming weeks. Myers stressed that even if violence subsides, attempts to carry out educational programs on unsettled Chinese campuses would be impractical this summer.

Sources in the China Christian Council contacted in Nanjing June 5 said the council was standing by its public support of student demands for democracy. The sources said some Christian seminary students were still on the streets of Nanjing with other citizens and confirmed that military forces had surrounded the city.

"They're just waiting," Towery said of the Christians. "They're expecting the worst."

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Mississippi pastor  
survives shooting

By Tim Nicholas

N- CO  
(Missy)

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The doctors had given him no hope. But a Mississippi pastor, shot in the head the evening of May 24, was out of intensive care within 30 hours. He was up walking in three days and is continuing to improve, according to his wife.

Roy Clark, pastor of Lake Harbor Baptist Church in Brandon, opened his door the evening of May 24 to James Hudgens, the estranged husband of a woman Clark was counseling. According to police, Hudgens pulled a 45-caliber pistol and fired point blank at Clark.

Hudgens, according to police, fled as Clark's wife Carol and their two children began screaming. Hudgens was later arrested and was being held on a \$1 million bond for aggravated assault.

A minute after the shooting, said Mrs. Clark, help was on the scene. A neurologist and two anesthesiologists arrived and "saved his life," keeping him breathing until emergency equipment could arrive.

That night, the University Medical Center opened its lobby to about 25 to 30 church members and friends who spent the night."

Mrs. Clark told the Baptist Record, state Baptist newspaper in Mississippi, her husband wants people to know that "Pastors come under fire so many times and the people don't believe them. We hate it that it takes something this disastrous or traumatic to call our attention to it."

She said the family had received more than a thousand calls. "Tell people to continue to pray," she said.

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Robert Naylor attending  
55th Southern Baptist Convention

By Scott Collins

F- CO  
(SWBTS)

Baptist Press  
6/8/89

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Some people collect coins while others save valuable stamps. But Robert Naylor collects Southern Baptist Convention meetings.

Naylor saves convention reports, annuals and other material from past meetings. But mostly, he saves the memories. This year Naylor is adding his 55th to a collection going back to 1933 in Washington when he attended his first SBC. Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has attended every convention in the past 56 years (no conventions were held in 1943 and 1945).

The shelves in Naylor's office at Southwestern are lined with volumes of past convention annuals which he is using to write memoirs of each SBC. So far he is up to 1958.

What Naylor has found in writing about each convention is the more things change, the more they stay the same. "There is the change of no change," he said. "The wheel turns. They (messengers) think they invented something at a convention but we have been that way before."

Among those things not new to the SBC are political movements, Naylor said. "Politics are not new (to the SBC)," Naylor said. "Each one will have its distinctive as this one does."

According to Naylor, the current SBC controversy is distinct from past fighting "because of our affluence as a denomination." Naylor believes the increased wealth of Southern Baptists "has multiplied attendance. More people can afford to go to the conventions and the controversy has multiplied the attendance. A controversy, just like a fight on the street, draws a crowd."

In addition, Naylor said recent media coverage of SBC meetings has drawn attention beyond the Baptist community.

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But in spite of 56 years of different controversies, Naylor said even Southern Baptist should attend a convention.

"To me, the convention demonstrates visually the force of doctrine," Naylor said. "We are created out of what we believe. We are opposed to hierarchy. Our democracy creates one of its own kind.

"The convention has always said to me that one person counts. Any Southern Baptist stands on level ground. They should go thinking 'It's important that I am here, though I'm one,'" Naylor said.

That belief is why Naylor attends every session during the annual meeting. "Basic to my convention attendance is the conviction from my preacher father who said always go to the meetings. 'You may leave thinking you haven't received anything, but you will have.'"

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Accounts differ on demolition  
of Baptist church in Romania

By Art Toalston

N-FMB  
Baptist Press  
6/8/89

BUCHAREST, Romania (BP)--Romanian authorities arrested five members of a Baptist congregation and destroyed a church May 31, according to a report by Keston College, an English research institute monitoring religious affairs in communist countries.

The church members, including the pastor, Ioan Chivoiu, were released after several days. "All were reportedly beaten during their detention," Keston College reported. A spokesman for the institute in Kent, England, did not know exactly how long the group was jailed.

The church is located in the town of Comanesti, about 250 miles northeast of Bucharest.

Whether the congregation had proper government approval to turn a house into a church remains at issue. According to Keston College, the congregation obtained "verbal consent of the local authorities" two years ago to convert one of the members' houses into a church.

But Vasile Talpos, former general secretary of the Baptist Union of Romania and current president of the European Baptist Federation, claimed the church never sought a building permit.

"There is a law here that you cannot build anything without having permission," Talpos said in a telephone interview, adding that buildings erected without construction permits are subject to demolition.

Keston College and Talpos also disagreed on another matter. According to the research institute, "The government's Department of Cults is reported to have asked the Baptist Union to take away Chivoiu's license as a pastor and revoke registration of the congregation but -- in an unusual move for Romania -- the Baptist Union is reported to have supported (the pastor and church)."

Talpos, who also is president of the Baptist Seminary in Bucharest, said he had not heard of any Baptist Union stance on the matter. "The Baptist Union always supports the congregations here," he said. "But when things are illegal, nothing can be done."

According to Keston College, the congregation fashioned the house into a 200-seat church that was "slightly bigger than had initially been agreed," but it "paid fines for this and believed the question was settled." A dedication ceremony was held last fall.

However, new leaders who took office in Comanesti declared in March that the church had been built without proper authorization and ordered it demolished, the college reported.

"The church was sealed by the authorities on several occasions to prevent the congregation (from) meeting inside, and police tried to break up gatherings outside," a news release from the college said. "The pastor was put under surveillance by the secret police, the Securitate."

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Keston said authorities blocked off surrounding streets May 31 and used heavy machinery to demolish the church. "Even trees were uprooted and the ground was plowed. Flowers were reportedly planted, so that there was no sign that the church had ever stood on the site."

Talpos said such church demolitions do not occur often. The last time a Baptist congregation lost a building because it failed to obtain a permit was three or four years ago, he said. No one was arrested in the incident. The Baptist Union includes about 1,000 churches with 200,000 members in this country of 23 million people.

Authorities arrested the five members of the Comanesti congregation, Talpos speculated, to question them about the sources of their funding and the way they obtained building materials.

"We have received many (written) approvals," Talpos noted. Three churches currently are being erected under building permits from Romanian authorities, he said. Two of the churches will seat 1,000 people, the other 500. A permit to renovate and enlarge another church was received recently. A 300-seat church was dedicated a month ago and an 800-seat church opened last year. The Baptist Seminary, he added, received permits to repair and renovate its two buildings, which were damaged in an earthquake 10 years ago.

"As leaders (of the Baptist Union), we never advocate doing such things which are illegal," Talpos said of proceeding with renovations or construction without a permit. Such actions damage relations with the government and tarnish the church's image among Romanians, he said.

"We would rather wait a little bit more and insist a little bit more and receive legal approval. Building churches," Talpos joked, "is not the first priority of the government here."

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INFORMATION FOR EDITORS: Following is a list of Southern Baptist teachers and other personnel sponsored in China by Cooperative services International, their hometowns, location of residence in China and status as of June 8.

N- FMB

NAME, HOMETOWN -----	LOCATION -----	STATUS AS OF 6/8/89 -----
Applewhite, Myra Plainview, Texas	Nanning	Going to Hong Kong by boat from Nanning June 11 or 12
Cather, Millie Lebanon, Tenn.	Guanghan	Has been in touch with her father. Will be coming into Hong Kong.
Clayton, Jana Longmont, Colo.	Beijing	In Hong Kong.
Crowe, Tracey New Orleans, La.	Yantai	Have had no contact.
Davis, Rose and Glenn Frankfort, Ky.	Nanjing	Arriving in Hong Kong from Nanjing June 9
Harvey, Muerner & Billy Riverside, Calif.	Shenyang	Flying to Guangzhou June 9 then to Hong Kong
Hilbun, Joy Baton Rouge, La.	Meixian	To arrive in Hong Kong by direct bus from Meixian June 8.

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Hippe, John Pleasant Hill, Calif.	Meixian	Arriving in Hong Kong by direct bus from Meixian June 8.
Lackey, Grady & June Lubbock, Texas	Yangzhou	Contacted by son. They are safe. Were not planning to leave. Not yet contacted by CSI.
Locke, Ken & Lou Ann Chapel Hill, N.C.	Nanning	Going to Hong Kong by boat June 11 or 12.
Martin, Don & Robin Sugar Land, Texas	Fuzhou	Relatives have contacted them. They are safe. Have no information on their travel
Martin, Tobi Shreveport, La.	Hangzhou	Have had no contact.
Qualls, Bucky & Ann Corpus Christi, Texas	Yantai	CSI has had no contact. Daughter phoned them. They are trying to leave for Hong Kong by boat.
Phillips, Charles & Thanis Arkadelphia, Ark.	Zhengzhou	Have not been able to contact. No report of bloodshed in Zhengzhou.
Powell, Allen & Joyce Irving, Texas	Xian	Planning to arrive in Hong Kong from Xian June 11
Segars, Clara Gainesville, Ga.	Yantai	Sister talked with her. Was planning to stay to finish her term until July 3. Few protest marches were reported in Yantai. No violence.
Templeton, Jay Kingsland, Texas	Beijing	Reported to have reached Hong Kong.
Todd, Sue Windsor, N.C.	Nanjing	To fly into Hong Kong June 12.
Vawter, Jim and Pat Florissant, Mo.	Tianjin	In Hong Kong
Williams, Dewayne Fort Worth, Texas	Dali	Have had no contact with him.
Winstead, Ron, Ina, Rhonda, and Barry (children) St. Peters, Mo.	Shanghai	Trying to take a ship to Hong Kong.

Samford University group has arrived safe in Hefei. Trying to fly to Hong Kong.

California Baptist group - 6 persons have arrived in Hong Kong directly from Guilin. Others on the way to Guangzhou - then to Hong Kong.

Northwest Baptist Convention - Lottie Moon tour arrived in Hong Kong from China June 7.