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Medical donations to Peru  
cholera victims continue

By Ken Camp

*N-CO Texas*

DALLAS (BP)--Working in cooperation with the Texas Baptist Men organization and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas is sending more than a half million dollars worth of donated medical supplies to Peru to treat victims of a cholera epidemic.

According to Ken Bowie, disaster relief coordinator for Southern Baptist missionaries in Peru, there have been more than 60,000 reported cases of cholera nationwide by March 8. About 600 new cases are being reported in Lima daily.

Luke Smith, a Southern Baptist missionary originally from Sweetwater, Texas, said there have been 1,483 cases of cholera in Cajamarca, where he works. There have been 960 hospitalized and 62 deaths due to cholera reported there, but the ministry of health estimates the reported figure is only about one-third of the actual deaths.

The shipment from Baylor is in addition to individual contributions secured by Danny Shaver, a ham radio operator and layman at Calvary Baptist Church of Pilot Point, Texas.

Working with Texas Baptist Men, Shaver sent about 40 cases of medical supplies on March 1. He sent a second shipment of 53 boxes -- about 1,000 pounds of I-V supplies and tetracycline tablets -- by American Airlines on March 8.

Shaver, who maintains regular radio contact with Bowie and Smith, said the initial shipment already had been distributed and almost depleted by March 8.

Also, TBM hopes to arrange through governmental channels an emergency airlift of up to 30,000 pounds of the most critically needed medical supplies, according to John LaNoue, state director of Baptist Young Men and off-site disaster relief coordinator.

Gary Collins, director of the Baylor pharmacy department, said the medical center has negotiated with several vendors to provide the desperately needed drugs.

Abbott Pharmaceuticals Hospital Division in Austin, Texas, donated 100,000 doses of five percent dextrose and 100,000 doses of ringers lactate.

"The 462 pallets are being shipped by Abbott at their expense from Austin to the site in Houston designated by Texas Baptist Men," Collins said. He noted that Abbott also is donating 200,000 I-Vs to the Peru relief project through other charitable channels.

The total Abbott contribution through Baylor fills 13 tractor-trailer rigs, according to LaNoue.

Lyphomed Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Fujisawa U.S.A., Inc., has donated 50,000 units of potassium chloride injections for I-V solutions to treat patients suffering from dehydration.

Baylor also enlisted Bergin Brunswig Wholesalers to contact five vendors who are providing 1 million doses of tetracycline, enough to treat 50,000 cholera patients.

Baylor Medical Center's administration also has allocated \$10,000, which Collins said he hopes to use as leverage money to secure further donations.

According to Jean McDaniel, travel and freight department of the Foreign Mission Board, the Baylor shipment may be repackaged for foreign transport in Houston and then shipped by sea freight from Lake Charles, La., on March 22, or it may be shipped directly from Houston. The Foreign Mission Board, which has approved \$60,000 from relief funds for the Peru project, will cover the expected shipping costs of about \$40,000.

Old-time singing convention  
is now PraiSing, Clower says

By Charles Willis

F-SSB

NASHVILLE (BP)--"I used to go to 'singing conventions' until I was notified by the Baptist Building in Jackson (Miss.) that the name had been changed to 'hymn sing,'" humorist Jerry Clower told about 7,000 persons March 11 at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. "Now they call them 'PraiSing!'"

Clower, a Southern Baptist widely known for what he calls "talking records" of country stories and tales of life in the rural South, helped launch the four-day music and worship celebration to unveil "The Baptist Hymnal."

More than 200 musicians from Oklahoma were featured in the session, along with Nashville soloist Karla Worley and an orchestra directed by Bill Walker, a Southern Baptist composer, arranger and conductor from Nashville.

"I started not to participate in PraiSing II," Clower admitted. "I came to the first PraiSing in 1975, and when I turned in the new hymnal to 'At the Cross,' they'd done took out 'such a worm as I.'"

Christ didn't go to the cross to die for a worm, Clower said he reasoned to himself.

"He went to the cross to die for Jerry, a sinner. By the time I got to the airport to go home," he recalled, "I said 'hallelujah, they took it out!'"

"I was saved at East Fork Baptist Church, Route 4, Liberty, Miss., while the congregation sang 'Only Trust Him' out of the 'Broadman Hymnal,'" he continued. "After I got saved," they lined up and shook hands with me, and they sang, 'Oh Happy Day.'"

Christian music "stamps out the negative" in life, Clower declared.

"This new hymnal is gonna give us a new enthusiasm and a new direction to stamp out negativism," he asserted.

"I've been an active Baptist for 51 years," he told the crowd of church musicians. "I'd have joined the WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) if they'd let me. I'm a storehouse tither, and I pray for the person who leads the music.

"I'm convinced there is only one place where there ain't no laughter, and that's in hell," he declared. "I've made arrangements to miss hell!"

In an interview between two identical evening features of PraiSing II, Clower recalled that hymns were "the first words I ever memorized.

"I did my first public speaking at B.Y.P.U. (Baptist Young People's Union, a forerunner of Southern Baptists' discipleship training program), and I memorized hymns, even though I mispronounced some of the words."

Two years ago, Clower said, he moved from Yazoo City, Miss., to return to his family's home in Liberty. The first Sunday we moved our membership back to East Fork Baptist Church, and in two years they haven't sung a hymn that I've needed a hymnbook to read the words."

Clower maintains that many people "don't understand what Christian music has meant to the world."

To illustrate, he told of going to a Mississippi town to view the devastation following a hurricane. At the site of a multiple grave-digging, he said he saw men "literally sing and pound out their grief.

"One man began spontaneously singing, 'A rose is blooming there for me ...' and then another added 'I'm on my way to that fair land where the soul never dies.'"

Clower recalled that as the men sang back and forth to each other, the sounds of shovels hitting the earth and rhythms clapped out by gravediggers' hands provided a musical worship experience he has carried in his memory for years.

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"Part of my Christian heritage is worshipping through music," Clower said of his early years in church. "One of the reasons I wanted to go to church was to hear the music and listen to the words."

He said he believes today's Southern Baptists who are not choir members should "open the hymnbook and try to sing; listen to the words."

The contrast in returning to the 125-member East Fork Baptist Church from many years in the "ten times larger" First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, Clower believes, has been in the music program.

"We miss the music, the large choir, the instruments," he said, "but what we do have at East Fork is the best quality possible. We have about 10 people in the choir, but there are some saints in there. Why, Mildred Campbell, who went to school with me, can still sing that alto like she was 18 years old!"

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

Oklahomans dedicate concert  
to four state musicians

By Dana Williamson

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3/12/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--The 216 musicians traveled from Oklahoma to Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House to dedicate the 1991 edition of "The Baptist Hymnal," but they had another purpose in their hearts as they sang for the opening night of PraiSing II.

"We're here for the realization of a dream he had worked on for over a year," said Betty Woodward of Shawnee.

"He" is James D. Woodward, who along with fellow Oklahomans Paul and Judy Magar and Mary June Tabor, were killed in a plane crash Jan. 14 as they were returning to Oklahoma City from a Singing Churchmen concert in Woodward, Okla.

Woodward, who was artist-in-residence at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, was to have been master of ceremonies for the March 11 opening night session of PraiSing II. The Singing Churchmen and Singing Churchwomen were to be the featured choirs.

Magar, director of church music for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and Tabor, his associate, had participated in the planning since the Oklahomans had been invited to participate. Woodward had directed the Singing Churchmen since the choir's inception in 1961 and was also director of the Singing Churchwomen, formed two years ago. Tabor and Judy Magar were members of the Churchwomen.

"We're here to celebrate the creative energy and steadfast philosophy which characterized all of them," said Wes Forbis, director of the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, in dedicating the evening to the four Oklahomans. "We are indeed pleased the group from Oklahoma has come to model and express this creative energy."

Singing with the Churchwomen were Woodward's widow, Betty, his daughter, Julia Broyles, and Magar's sister, Shirley Glitsch. David Baker, Paul Magar's nephew, sang with the Churchmen. Present in the audience was Woodward's mother, Julia Woodward, of Lexington, Ky.

"We are here praising the Father who they served and loved," said Glitsch. "Paul's burning desire was for everyone to know Jesus. These groups were a witness and a ministry to him."

The guys all wished Woodward was here because this is a culmination of his work," said Baker.

The songs were the songs he had chosen, and the program was what he had planned, said Betty Woodward. "It is very uplifting and exciting to be a part of it. People asked me if I would be here, and I said, 'where else would I be?'"

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"After Jim died, the Churchmen officers came to the house and asked me what I needed. I said 'Are we going to PraiSing?' That's all I need."

"It's a very special night," said Broyles, "because of our loved ones who planned it and made it special for us. It's a way that we can honor them and honor God."

When asked what her father's favorite song was, Broyles replied, "It was the one he was directing at the time."

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Williamson is public relations newswriter for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. (BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

S.C. executive secretary  
announces retirement

Baptist Press  
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WHITE OAK, S.C. (BP)--Ray P. Rust, executive secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, announced his retirement plans effective Feb. 29, 1992.

Rust informed the convention's 85-member general board of his decision during their semi-annual meeting at White Oak Conference Center.

"With the development of our church growth emphasis that will be presented to the general board and later this year to the convention, we will have set our direction in programming for the next 10 years," he said. "Our new office/resource center will be well under way and I will have completed 10 years, to the day, as executive secretary."

Rust, who will be 66 in August, said he wants to turn his attention to some matters of personal interest, including volunteer service on a church staff or short-term missionary service. He said he and his wife, Joy, will continue to live in Columbia.

A native of Shreveport, La., Rust assumed the position of executive secretary-treasurer March 1, 1982. Prior to that he was president of Anderson (S.C.) College for four years.

Edward M. Carney, pastor of Ashley River Baptist Church in Charleston, and president of the general board, said a search committee will be selected to recommend a replacement for Rust. The general board must recommend the candidate to the annual session of the convention in November.

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Senior adult music  
has life changing impact

By Dawn Bixler Richerson

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SAN ANGELO, Texas (BP)--Lyndel Vaught, minister of music at the First Baptist Church of San Angelo, Texas, believes senior adult music-making changes lives. He's seen it happen.

Vaught, director of the 119-voice Glory Choir, said in an interview that music ministers could be involved in changing and even extending people's lives through senior adult choir ministry.

He has built his ministry around the goal of helping persons become "successful agers who live the later years of life involved in new experiences and new relationships which achieve enduring significance beyond the limits of life." Vaught often lends his expertise to music ministers seeking help in senior adult choir ministry. He frequently is on the program of workshops and seminars.

For Vaught, senior adult choir ministry is as much about building relationships as it is about singing. More than half of Glory Choir members had absolutely no musical background.

Vaught adheres to what he calls the "D.M.A. policy -- Don't Mention Age." The only membership requirement is being retired from something, from high-tech business to homemaking.

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More than a decade since its debut, the choir provides a ministry to its members and also ministers through music and missions in its own community and around the world. The group has travelled to Mexico four times, to England twice, has sung in numerous conferences and performed with a symphony orchestra. The choir plans a major performance every other month and a local event each month.

Vaught treats the senior adult choir like any other choir and insists on quality production: "If the regular church choir should get sick and not show up on a Sunday morning," he exclaims, "this one could walk in and take their place and nobody would know the difference."

Age doesn't limit the The Glory Choir's repertoire. They sing gospel, anthems and even classics like "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" with certain modifications. "I always believed senior adults could do more than people said they could do," Vaught explains. "I expect things from them and they've always come along."

But there have been a few surprises. During a 1983 mission trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, some choir members discovered that new Christians had no place to meet for worship. The choir responded to the need by buying an old hotel with a price tag of \$100,000. Within 30 days they had raised \$60,000. A year later, the debt was paid in full. The Puerto Vallarta mission was recently constituted into a church.

Vaught started the Glory Choir with just 17 charter members. The group has experienced phenomenal growth although there are no officers. Vaught says all members are "membership vice presidents" and the choir has grown because of the Andrew Principle: "They go out and get a brother and bring him in."

While ministry with senior adults can and should be done in a way that fits each particular church, Vaught suggests the following guidelines:

- Realize the potential. Vaught is convinced that 85 percent of all senior adults can be reached by music ministry. Only 5 percent are in nursing homes.
- Be inclusive. The Glory Choir includes those with no musical background and has members from seven different denominations. Vaught holds all rehearsals at a neutral site.
- Write a handbook of guidelines and expectations.
- Select music, starting in your own church library, and recruit the best accompanist you can find.
- Be professional. This generation of senior adults expects a professional attitude. Vaught's seasoned advice: "Always wear a coat and tie."
- Rehearse intently. A typical Glory Choir rehearsal includes stretches or "limited aerobics," a brief voice lesson, the choir theme song, familiar songs and, finally, a new piece.
- Learn to listen to senior adults from their perspective and examine your own values and prejudices.

Since he "jumped whole hog" into senior adult choir ministry in 1979, Vaught has done extensive research in the field of geriatrics. He is now visiting instructor at Sam Houston State College in Texas and has written a new book published by Convention Press, "Senior Adult Choir Ministry: Age is No Excuse."

Despite his recognized expertise in the field, Vaught still views himself as a local church minister of music: "God called me from the back row of my choir when I was 16 years old; the greatest thrill I still have is to stand up on Sunday morning and direct the congregation in singing 'Blessed Assurance.'"