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91-129

Brotherhood disaster relief
volunteers impact Cape Cod

By Jim Burton

BADJ-11

CAPE COD, Mass. (BP)--Seventy-eight Southern Baptist Brotherhood disaster relief volunteers from six states have fed over 6,000 meals and removed about 500 dump truck loads of debris within six days of Hurricane Bob, said Robert Simpkins, Kentucky Brotherhood and disaster relief director.

"God has painted broad healing strokes through the lives of loving disaster relief volunteers who have come to meet the needs created by the devastation of this hurricane," said Simpkins, who is serving as on-site coordinator for the multi-state response.

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission of Memphis, Tenn., began coordinating the disaster response with the Baptist Convention of New England and Greater Boston Baptist Association leaders as Hurricane Bob made its course through the Atlantic ocean toward land.

Local officials estimate that damage on Cape Cod to public property will exceed \$12 million. Massachusetts Lt. Gov. A. Paul Cellucci is predicting a total price tag of \$1 billion to public and private property.

The Brotherhood Commission placed disaster relief crews on standby Monday morning (Aug. 19) to await damage assessment immediately following Hurricane Bob's strike.

Volunteers from Kentucky, Maryland, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia have staffed the response thus far. Additional volunteers from Tennessee, South Carolina and Virginia are expected this week, Simpkins said.

This is the first out-of-state response for Indiana and Michigan disaster relief volunteers.

"The main thing you have done is show these people Jesus Christ," Simpkins told volunteers during a daily debriefing. "Some of them are Christians. Most of them don't know what being a Christian means.

"What they know of Christ or what they are beginning to see of Christ is what they are seeing in you. You can rest assured that you have done a monumental task...most importantly in spiritual things."

Disaster relief crews didn't come to Cape Cod to start Baptist work, but there have been some miracles along the way, Simpkins said. Saturday morning, Simpkins and C.A. Easterling, Brotherhood Commission trustee from Kentucky, met a couple in Falmouth who are Southern Baptists and wish for a church there. With a positive presence established in Falmouth by volunteers through disaster relief, a new church start now seems possible.

"That is a full-circle Holy Spirit move where He is coming in from the back side and advancing out the front side," Simpkins said.

"There was an attempt at a Bible study in Falmouth several years ago," said Jack Parrott, associate executive director of the Greater Boston Baptist Association which includes Cape Cod. "We hope to follow up and possibly start a church there."

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Simpkins stationed disaster relief crews in Swansea, Mass., and in Falmouth, Hyannis and Chatham on Cape Cod. The Kentucky Brotherhood Disaster Relief Mobile Feeding Unit is preparing meals for satellite feeding in Swansea. The Ohio Brotherhood feeding unit is performing the same function in Hyannis. The American Red Cross is distributing meals to several communities on Cape Cod.

For the first three days, the Ohio unit operated from the parking lot of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Hyannis. This is the home church of the late President John F. Kennedy. His mother, Rose, still attends when she is able, said local officials.

In Falmouth, Southern Baptist chain saw crews have worked alongside Department of Public Works and Massachusetts Turnpike Authority crews. Volunteers reported comments from local crews about their "accents."

"They said we talked funny," said Jim Thompson of Barbourville, Ky. But once the professional maintenance workers learned that the Southern Baptists were volunteers, their attitude changed.

"Well, if you guys are volunteers and aren't getting paid," Thompson reported one workman as saying, "I'm not going to say you talk funny anymore."

"I explained that through the love of Christ we get more than money," said Reggie Morgan, Jr., of Barbourville. "It really shocked them."

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BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Brotherhood Commission

New US-2 missionaries told
to remember who sent them

By Mark Wingfield

HMB-F

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8/26/91

ATLANTA (BP)--Being a missionary requires remembering two things, Wendell Belew told 32 new US-2 missionaries.

Belew, retired Home Mission Board associate vice president for missions strategy, presented his challenge during a commissioning service for US-2 missionaries at First Baptist Church of Lithia Springs in suburban Atlanta. A US-2 missionary is a college graduate who works in home missions for two years.

First, Belew told the US-2ers to "remember who sent you."

He reminded the missionaries of Jesus' prayer for his disciples. "Jesus prayed, 'As the Father has sent me, so send I you.' Jesus was praying for your success," Belew said.

Missionaries must also remember "people out there are expecting you." Belew told of a fact-finding trip to a remote village in Alaska. He was given the opportunity to preach but turned it down because he was sick.

Missionaries who were later assigned to that village led many people to make professions of faith. Yet Belew said he will always wonder what might have happened if he had preached when the people expected him. He urged the new missionaries to take advantage of every opportunity to share the gospel.

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Korean pastor's success formula
transcends ethnic differences

By Frank Wm. White

SSB-F

Baptist Press
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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Chi C. Lee has overseen the growth of a Korean Southern Baptist congregation in San Jose, Calif., following principles he believes will work for any church no matter what the ethnic background or language orientation.

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"If a pastor is really serious about growing a church, he needs to set up a master plan before anything else," Lee said.

Other elements may be included, but the master plan must have the three basics of meaningful worship, training for church members and strong outreach through the Sunday school, said Lee who was Bible teacher for Korean participants at the Conference for Small Sunday Schools at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

The Korean group was one of seven language emphasis conference sessions during the week sponsored by the Sunday school division and the special ministries department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Lee focused on his three basics when he began a mission of Foxwood Baptist Church in San Jose in February 1981. More than a decade later, First Korean Baptist Church of San Jose has its own facilities, four full-time ministers, four part-time staff members and a membership of more than 750.

Lee was a 40-year-old professor of electrical engineering at the University of Colorado in Denver when he felt called to full-time ministry in 1980. He moved to San Mateo, Calif., and attended Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley.

In less than a year, he moved to San Jose, where he commuted more than an hour to the seminary because he believed the potential for a Southern Baptist Korean church was greater there.

There were 32 Korean congregations of other denominations in San Jose with about 20,000 Koreans in the community, and Lee believed a Southern Baptist Korean congregation was needed.

As an electrical engineer, Lee had always developed a plan for each project. He applied that principle to starting a church using the three basics of worship, discipleship training and Sunday school along with planning goals. Now he has a 20-year plan for the church that includes new facilities as well as personal growth goals.

The mission in San Jose grew to more than 100 in attendance within the first year, and Lee organized the single adult Sunday school class into a Sunday school department organization. That was possible because of the training that had been going on from the beginning through discipleship training.

"All along, we were developing worshipers into workers," he explained. "Training produces so many church workers to supply Sunday school teachers and more church training teachers," he said.

Now, laypeople are teaching training sessions that range from basic orientation to MasterLife discipleship training, family enrichment, Parenting By Grace and Continuing Witness Training, he said.

While training people to be workers, Lee also emphasized Sunday school during the worship service. "One family left the church because they thought I emphasized Sunday school too much, but I still do it," he said.

Although he has had a plan for growth, Lee admits the growth the church has experienced is miraculous.

The church bought an existing church facility which it moved into in March 1991. A substantial profit on the property the church had purchased only two years earlier helped fund the purchase.

Although the facilities which include a worship center, education building and gym is more than the church could have expected to build, they already are planning two worship services to make room for growth.

From the language standpoint, Lee said it has been difficult to implement English materials directly in the Korean church. The materials need strong adaptation, he said.

In the beginning, Lee used Southern Baptist materials as resources to develop what the church needed.

Now, Bible Book Series Sunday school materials for adults are available in Korean. Some of the materials are written by Korean writers with other portions translated from English.

"We (Southern Baptists) are getting better at providing materials in Korean," he said. But, many materials still must be adapted. Having Korean writers rather than translating English materials is more helpful because translations sometimes do not work.

Ho Kil Kahng, coordinator of Korean language materials in the board's special ministries department, explained additional Korean-written materials will be added as more writers are trained to develop the materials.

Currently in addition to the Bible Book Sunday school materials, annual January Bible Study and Baptist Doctrine Study books are translated into Korean. Breakthrough Sunday school books also are being translated into Korean, Kahng said.

Children and youth in Lee's church study in English because they are more comfortable with English. "We don't see any reason why they shouldn't use English materials," he said.

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'Student ministry is my life,'
says 'big sister' Nell Magee

By Chip Alford

SSB-F

Baptist Press
8/26/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--"If there is anything else God will let you do, don't do student work," the wise, elderly man told a college senior eager to find her place in ministry.

The time was the winter of 1947 and the place was the campus of Mississippi College, a Baptist school in Clinton, Miss. The comment was the parting words of Frank Leavell, the "founding father" of Southern Baptist student work, to Nell Magee.

"I think part of what he was trying to tell me was that student work was a very difficult field, and if I was not committed to it, that I should not do it under any circumstances," Magee explained during a recent interview at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. She credits her conversation with Leavell with helping her "to crystallize my decision to get involved in student ministry and know that is where God wanted me to be."

The Mississippi native definitely found her niche in student work. She will retire Aug. 31 after more than three decades as a consultant for the board's student ministry department. But this isn't her swan song, but rather the next step in her journey of enthusiastic ministry to students.

Magee will become director of higher education for the Baptist Convention of New England Oct. 1. In that role, she will enlist volunteers for student ministry, work at developing balanced relationships between campus ministries and local churches and involve her vast network of contacts across the United States in student ministry in New England.

"Student work has been my life," Magee explained, an infectious smile broadening across her face. "I'm considering New England stage one of my retirement, and I don't know what stage two will bring. But as long as my health permits, I want to stay involved in some way as a volunteer."

That's likely good news to student workers across the country, many of whom Magee has trained, encouraged and ministered to on a personal level.

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"Nell Magee has been a real friend to student directors. They all know and appreciate her because of her personal touch," said Bill Henry, manager of the program section of the SSB's student ministry department. "She has done a brilliant job of relating to both directors and students and building confidence in our program. We couldn't have asked for a better ambassador for student work," he said.

A self-confessed sufferer of the "big sister complex," Magee was the second (first daughter) of seven children born to a dairy farmer and school teacher in rural Walthall County, Miss.

"I've been big sister to the world," she said with a chuckle. "But the one thing that saves me is I know I'm that way."

Active in church programs all her life, Magee first felt the call to Christian ministry as a 10-year-old GA.

"The only female role model I had (in Christian ministry) at that time was Lottie Moon, so at age 10 I was going to be a missionary to China," she remembered. "But I moved away from that when I went to college and was faced with the confrontation of, 'What do you really want to do with your life?'"

It was at Mississippi College that Magee was first exposed to Baptist Student Union and the positive effect the organization had on many students' lives. Leavell visited the campus during her senior year, and she arranged the meeting that helped set her future course.

Her first student ministry job was as BSU director at Sunflower Junior College in Moorhead, Miss., where the late Chester Swor, another giant in Baptist student work, got his start. She accepted a similar position at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, before moving on to Fort Worth, Texas, where she earned a master's degree in religious education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. After earning her degree, Magee served as BSU director at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, Miss., and at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. She joined the Sunday School Board staff in 1960.

During her tenure at the board, Magee helped organize the Special Training Program, an annual training event for BSU presidents and officers from across the country.

"I've seen students who couldn't look you in the eye they were so bashful and then watch them bloom into strong leaders," Magee said. "There is nothing in the world more rewarding than to see that some effort you have made has helped another person catch a vision for ministry."

Another rewarding aspect of Magee's career has been her involvement with ministry to international students.

Magee helped open doors for BSU ministries to internationals on college campuses across the country through her involvement with the National Association of Foreign Student Affairs, now known as NAFSA: Association of International Educators. She served on the national organization's board of directors for four years.

"The first year I went to their national conference some people turned their backs and walked away when they learned what my job was. There was a lot of resistance at first," Magee remembered.

But she persisted, renting exhibit space at NAFSA conferences and handing out materials about the Baptist student work program.

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"I wanted to build some confidence in our organization, to let them know that they could trust us," Magee explained. "I told (the educators) that we are in business to try and help them and we are also in business to introduce international students to the Christian faith. We want to do that in ways that will not offend or pressure the students, and there are appropriate ways to do that," she said.

Though she's had several other career opportunities, Magee said she has never desired to work with any group other than college students.

"I really do feel like the college years are the most significant years in a person's development because of the exposure to life and its opportunities," she said. "If we can involve students in a Christian organization that helps them understand what a genuine commitment to God is all about and how to become better disciples, life can become a beautiful opportunity for them. It's exciting to be a part of that."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspaper editor by SSB bureaus of Baptist Press

Child abuse troubles
college students

By Chip Alford

SSB-F

Baptist Press
8/26/91

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Mirroring the concern of their parents, child abuse is the social issue that most troubles college students who participated in a survey of readers of "The Student" magazine.

Asked to choose from a list of 28 "societal needs and concerns" five that concerned them most, 46.7 percent of the 501 survey respondents checked child abuse. "The Student" editor Milt Hughes said readers of the magazine have chosen child abuse as their number one societal concern for four years in a row.

Child abuse also is the number one moral issue of concern to Southern Baptist adults, according to The 1990 Southern Baptist Constituency Study. Of the 1,377 adults who participated in that study, 55 percent checked child abuse from a list of 27 items as a moral issue which concerned them.

Other societal concerns frequently checked by "The Student" readers included: abortion, 45.1 percent; the homeless, 29.5 percent; poverty, 28.7 percent; drug abuse, 28.7 percent; world peace, 28.1 percent; drunk driving, 26.3 percent; racism, 25.7 percent; AIDS, 25.7 percent; and hunger, 24.4 percent.

Hughes said the questionnaire was published in the September 1990 issue of the magazine, and results have appeared sporadically throughout 1991 editions. Complete results were shared with state student directors at the 1991 Glorieta Student Conference Aug. 10-16 in Glorieta, N.M. A new questionnaire is published in the October 1991 issue with results to be published in next year's editions of the magazine, Hughes said.

Of the 501 respondents in "The Student" survey, 56 percent were female and 44 percent were male. Eighty-five percent identified themselves as Baptist, 4.2 from other Protestant denominations, 1.4 percent Catholic, and 6.6 percent from "other" religious backgrounds. The racial breakdown of the respondents was 93.4 percent white, 2.8 percent black, 2.2 Asian, and 1 percent Hispanic.

More than half (54.5 percent) of the respondents labeled themselves politically conservative, while 33.7 percent said they were "middle of the road," 4.4 percent said they were "far right," 6.9 percent claimed to be "liberal," and less than 1 percent "far left."

Choosing from a list of 29 "personal needs," 62.3 percent selected "relationship to God" as important. Other selections included grades, 41.5 percent; time management, 41.1 percent; finances, 33.5 percent; stress, 32.5 percent; setting priorities, 32 percent; success, 30.7 percent; establishing friendships, 30 percent; temptation 21.8 percent; and making other important decisions, 21.4 percent.

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The survey also found students have a high view of Scripture. Asked to choose from a list of statements two or three that would be closest to their view of the Bible, 83 percent checked "inspired by God," 75.6 percent checked "guidelines for Christian living." Just under 30 percent checked "inerrant, infallible" and 21.6 percent checked "authoritative."

That less one-third of the student respondents checked "inerrant, infallible" as representative of their view of the Bible does not mean they do not have "reverence and respect" for Scripture, Hughes said. "I think it suggests that many students do not understand the terminology of inerrancy and infallibility," he explained.

Hughes also said the high percentage of respondents choosing "guidelines for Christian living" as representative of their view of the Bible shows that students are very practical. "They look at the Bible and ask, 'What does it mean to me?, and 'How does it affect my life,'" he said.

Other survey results showed:

-- The percentage of respondents who frequently or occasionally: attended Sunday school, 94.1; had a quiet time, 92.2; read "The student," 58.5; participated in Baptist Student Union, 58; went on a mission trip, 40.7; drank alcohol, 32.7; had sexual intercourse, 21.

-- The percentage of students who would like the church to give more help in: life decisions, 45.1; Bible study, 32.7; worship, 30.1; discipleship training, 28.7; mission involvement, 22.8; dealing with special issues, 21.4; evangelism, 17.4; ethics, 13.8; and sexuality, 6.

-- The preferred Bible version for students is the New International Version, which was chosen by 49.9 percent of the respondents; followed by King James, 15.5 percent; New American Standard, 14.9 percent; New King James, 9.6 percent; Living Bible, 4 percent; and Good News Bible, 2 percent.

In comparison, adults responding to the Southern Baptist Constituency study preferred the King James Version (62 percent), followed by The Living Bible, 13 percent; New International Version, 9 percent; New American Standard Version, 6 percent; and Revised Standard Version, 5 percent.