



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Baptists scurry to assist  
hurricane victims in Florida

By Barbara Denman

Baptist Press  
8/24/92

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--As Hurricane Andrew was invading the tip of South Dade County Aug. 24, an army of Baptists from North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia were quietly crossing the state line prepared to do battle.

With wind gusts up to 165 miles per hour and sustained winds registering 140 miles per hour, Hurricane Andrew cut a path of destruction across Coral Gables, Homestead and Kendall before leaving the state south of Naples. And although only two lives have been reported lost, damage has been estimated in the billions of dollars.

Officials reported 281 shelters were housing 82,121 people. Florida Power and Light said 500,000 people were without electricity.

Even before the hurricane left the peninsula state, teams of Baptist volunteers from Florida, Georgia and North Carolina were descending upon the storm-ravaged area.

The disaster relief teams were hoping to be feeding hot meals to the hurricane victims by nightfall.

In all, five state mobile disaster relief feeding units were activated to assist the Florida Baptist unit, assigned to locations by the American Red Cross.

Feeding units from Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana were on standby. Forecasters predict Andrew will gain speed in the Gulf of Mexico and strike land again.

The Florida Baptist and North Carolina Baptist feeding vans were assigned to Fort Lauderdale. Two Georgia Baptist disaster relief units were sent to work in downtown Miami.

Baptist Men from South Carolina and Virginia were activated Monday morning and were expected to arrive in south Florida by Wednesday.

The units will serve up to 30,000 meals a day, said Douglas Beggs, vice president for program services of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, which is coordinating the various units operated by the Brotherhood departments of the state Baptist conventions. The units range from tractor-trailer rigs to fifth wheels.

Several Baptist churches offered their facilities as feeding sites, although no assignments had yet been made. These include First Baptist of Fort Lauderdale, First Baptist of Pompano Beach, First Baptist of Palm Springs and First Baptist of West Palm Beach.

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According to Cecil Seagle, state Brotherhood director, many Florida Baptists are volunteering to assist in the hurricane's aftermath. The department is taking names and preparing feeding crews to relieve the workers Aug. 27. Crews also will be needed to perform clean-up and repair tasks.

Seagle noted all volunteer expenses will be covered by the state convention, which already has set up a fund for the disaster. The SBC Home Mission Board has released \$25,000 for disaster relief and \$25,000 for hunger funds.

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Jim Burton contributed to this story.

CLC, others seek to end  
ABA judicial selection role

By Tom Strobe

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined more than 20 other groups in asking Attorney General William Barr to end the American Bar Association's role in the selection process for federal courts and the Supreme Court.

In response to the ABA's recent vote endorsing abortion rights, the CLC and the other organizations said in a letter to Barr the lawyers' group "has chosen to be a political interest group rather than a non-political professional association." The groups asked him to immediately terminate the ABA's official role in judicial selection.

The attorney general refers nominees to the ABA's Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary, which assesses prospective appointees to federal district courts and circuit courts of appeals before nomination and appointees to the Supreme Court after nomination. A negative rating has the effect of eliminating a lower federal court nomination. The ABA's assessment is one of several factors in the evaluation of a Supreme Court nominee.

"Judicial nominees over the past decade have been subjected to intense probing to determine their position on abortion, the death penalty, and other controversial issues," the letter said. "Can anyone really believe that the ABA will implement its positions by lobbying for federal legislation but will suddenly refrain from implementing them in evaluating judicial candidates?"

The ABA not only voted to support abortion rights in both its assembly and house of delegates, the letter said, but incoming president Michael McWilliams plans to lobby on behalf of the ABA for passage of the Freedom of Choice Act, an abortion rights bill in Congress.

In a written statement, the ABA's McWilliams said, "The ABA adopts hundreds of policy positions on legislative issues; none of these has ever been or will be a factor in the Standing Committee's evaluation of prospective candidates for the federal bench. Their evaluations focus entirely on only three factors: professional competence, judicial temperament and integrity."

The ABA's committee has no "litmus test" regarding the candidates' public policy views, McWilliams said.

A Justice Department spokesperson confirmed the letter had been received but would not comment.

Other groups signing the letter were Coalitions for America, National Association of Evangelicals, Family Research Council, Concerned Women for America, American Family Association, Home School Legal Defense Association, American Center for Law and Justice, American Conservative Union and Conservative Caucus. Other organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, made the same request in separate letters.

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In February 1990, the CLC also asked the attorney general, then Dick Thornburgh, to terminate the ABA's unique role. The ABA had voted to endorse abortion rights, an action which it rescinded later in 1990.

The ABA has demonstrated its partisanship for 20 years, the letter said, by passing resolutions, among others, endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972 and '74, supporting the Uniform Abortion Act in 1972, approving of federal funding of abortion in 1978 and supporting homosexual rights in 1989.

The Senate, which approves federal judges, has requested the ABA committee's recommendation on judges since 1948. The ABA's relationship with the Justice Department began in 1952.

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Draper says SSB has role  
in world battle for souls

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press  
8/24/92

NASHVILLE (BP)--The real battle in the world today is the battle for the hearts and souls of people, and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board is uniquely poised to be a positive influence for the cause of Christ, President James T. Draper Jr. told employees Aug. 21.

"The answer (in the battle) is not Bible knowledge, it is Bible understanding. And that's what we're about, helping people to make decisions based on the Word of God," Draper said.

Saying he wanted employees to know "what drives me," Draper said his life was changed concerning the urgency of spreading the gospel in 1983 when he read the book, "Called and Committed: World Changing Discipleship" by David Watson. In that book, the author said the battle of the 20th century would be among Islam, Marxism and Third World Christianity. He dismissed western Christianity as weak and ineffective.

After reading the book, Draper said he wondered, "Could it possibly be that the hand of God, the blessings of God are being transferred to other continents?"

To be truly effective in spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth, Draper said board employees and trustees must recognize the institution does not exist for itself, for Southern Baptists or Christians. The board exists for the 5 billion people in the world struggling to survive.

He said the board will make a difference if "we live our lives for them, if we determine to be the best that we can be so that the world may know the gospel, so that Christ may be honored, so the lost may be saved, so that believers may be strengthened and matured, so that churches can grow, so the Great Commission can be reached.

"If we live our lives and serve through this board for them, then God will give us our lives back. We will have won at the only game that it is possible to win -- that in losing ourselves we found ourselves, in giving ourselves away we truly possessed ourselves. That is what we are about," he continued.

Draper reported to employees on trustee actions earlier in the week approving a restructured organization and 12 persons, 11 currently employed at the board, for administrative positions. Trustees also approved a one-time voluntary early retirement window for which 191 employees are eligible and authorized several improvements in benefits for employees.

Reviewing the restructuring process, Draper said: "What I've tried to do is be open with you. I've not done it perfectly but I've tried to tell you everything I know when it's firmed up."

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In return, he called on employees to share concerns.

"If you have a complaint, a concern, a criticism, a condemnation or you're just plain mad, it's all right. Tell us about it. You might find out I'm pretty hacked about it myself," Draper said.

"We're in this together and, together, we're going to be the best to meet the challenge of this decade and to launch us into the one to come. I ask you, pour your hearts into that. Join hands and hearts in that," he continued.

Draper emphasized that striving for excellence in products and services has been a priority in the past.

"If being the best is a mountain to be climbed, we are not at the foot. We are on the slope, headed for the summit. If being the best is a destination, we are not sitting in the house with the car in the garage, but we are not yet at the end of the journey. If being the best is a race to be won, we are out of the starting blocks, positioning ourselves to be winners," Draper said.

He cited several recent examples of progress toward being the best, including a recent Gold Medallion Award for the "Holman Family Worship Bible." He also noted two new LIFE Support Products -- "First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program" and "Making Peace with Your Past" -- have generated \$270,000 in sales in just six weeks.

Draper listed 10 indicators by which employees can know the board is making progress toward being the best and called on individuals to identify specific indicators by which they can measure themselves.

"Set some targets for yourselves," he urged.

"I love you," Draper concluded. "I care about you. I believe the most exciting days to live, to work, to serve God, lie ahead. We're in this together. Together, we're going to be the best."

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Draper lists indicators  
for BSSB to be the best

Baptist Press  
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NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President listed 10 general indicators "by which we can know we are making progress" toward being the best during an Aug. 21 employee assembly.

1. The trend in total sales will be increasing.
2. Revenue from operations will be increasing faster than operational and administrative costs.
3. The BSSB will have fewer policies and procedures.
4. Employees regularly will be able to see ideas implemented to improve the quality of products and services.
5. Employees will be rewarded for suggestions and ideas, empowered to be more creative, effective and productive.
6. The BSSB will be known for its efficiency in getting products to customers and for product quality.
7. Books regularly will make the top 10 of the Christian Bookseller Association's best seller lists.

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8. The BSSB will take advantage of the latest in technology to find new ways to serve the churches.

9. The BSSB will aggressively market products and services in countries throughout the world.

10. Churches in increasing numbers will be telling board personnel that BSSB programs, products and services are helping them achieve their vision.

Draper also urged employees to identify indicators by which they can measure their progress in contributing toward making the board the best publisher of religious materials.

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VP's staff tells church:  
Just have a worship service

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press  
8/24/92

LAKELAND, Fla. (BP)--Just have a regular worship service, Vice President Dan Quayle's staff told Mike Hailey.

So, "I preached a message just like I always preach," said Hailey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lakeland, Fla.

Quayle and his wife, Marilyn, worshiped with the Lakeland congregation before launching into an Aug. 23 campaign swing from the Tampa-St. Petersburg area to northern Florida.

The Quayles chose to attend the 9:30 a.m. worship service, Hailey noted, rather than an 11 a.m. service broadcast across central Florida.

Quayle's staff contacted the church about three weeks earlier and underscored that the vice president simply wanted "to start the day like he always does every Sunday -- in church," Hailey said.

Thus Hailey said he stayed with plans to start a sermon series on "How to Deal with How You Feel," with an initial message on "The Battle of Bitterness."

A crowd of Bush-Quayle supporters -- and a small contingent of AIDS protesters -- gathered in front of the church. Several AIDS activists were escorted from the auditorium prior by Secret Service officers prior to the 9:30 service. They had condoms in hand, Hailey recounted, and "obviously had something planned but the Secret Service spotted them."

As Quayle stepped forward to greet the congregation, one undetected protester stood up, asked why the Bush administration had not done more to battle AIDS and was quickly removed from the auditorium by Secret Service men.

"Let me stop and address that for a moment," Quayle said spontaneously, stating the size of federal expenditures for AIDS research compared to cancer and heart disease.

Otherwise, Hailey said, Quayle said nothing political during the five minutes he addressed the congregation but rather talked about his faith and his convictions relating to family values.

Hailey, acknowledging he is a Republican and shares many of the vice president's beliefs, said he did not regard Quayle's visit as partisan politics. "This is the vice president of the United States," Hailey reminded, adding elected officials of either party who want to worship at the church are welcome.

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"I tried to look at it as a great opportunity for our church, as a once-in-a-lifetime event," Hailey said. Years from now, kids who shook hands with Quayle as he walked through the church will remember him as the vice president they met, not as someone in the midst of a campaign or his political party.

For a half hour before the worship service, the Quayles visited with Hailey and his wife, Sandy, and their three children, Jason, 21, Josh, 16, Jessica, 5, in a church parlor.

Hailey said he will long remember "how genuine (Quayle) was, how he freely and openly and comfortably talked about his relationship to Christ."

The pastor said he asked the vice president and Mrs. Quayle if he could pray for them, and they consented.

Hailey's family gathered around the Quayles and the pastor said he focused much of his prayer on Psalms 37:4, that Quayle would delight himself in the Lord so the Lord would give him the desires of his heart.

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Bush-Clinton debate set  
for University of Richmond

By Michael J. Clingenpeel

Baptist Press  
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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Republican President George Bush and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, the Democratic nominee for president, will hold their final televised debate at the University of Richmond.

The debate, sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates, will be Oct. 15 at 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time in a 10,000-seat basketball arena on the campus of the Baptist-affiliated school in Richmond, Va.

The Commission on Presidential Debates is a nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation that sponsored the presidential and vice-presidential debates in 1988.

To host the event, Robins Center, the school's arena, will be transformed into "a television studio," noted university President Richard Morrill. The Commission on Presidential Debates will equip the elaborate set with state-of-the-art production equipment trucked to the campus for one night.

A viewing audience of 160 million people worldwide is expected to tune in to the 90-minute debate. Despite the arena's seating capacity, only about 600 seats will be used. The seats, all reserved, will be equally divided among Republicans, Democrats and financial sponsors of the debate.

Previous televised debates encountered problems with applause or other audible reactions from the audience, a problem this format is designed to avoid.

Cost of the debate, anticipated at \$400,000 to \$500,000, will be borne by a coalition of 10 to 20 sponsors enlisted by Morrill.

The university approached CPD about hosting the event on the suggestion of a student's parent. The school was selected from among 75 potential sites, Morrill said, because it had a self-contained facility, photogenic campus and adequate financial sponsorship.

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Also available upon request:

-- First-person commentary by Alabama pastor Bruce Chesser on a spiritual lesson in dingy undershirts.

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