



BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232
NASHVILLE Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3808 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

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**Missionaries stay as
Haiti braces for embargo**

By Mary E. Spidel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP)--Southern Baptist workers plan to stay in Haiti as the island nation braces for shortages expected from international sanctions.

The Organization of American States has called for economic sanctions against Haiti to protest the Sept. 30 coup that ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Aristide, now in exile in Venezuela, was inaugurated as Haiti's first freely elected president Feb. 7. The Haitian parliament installed Supreme Court Justice Joseph Nerette as interim president Oct. 8 following the takeover by a military junta.

Officials predicted Haiti had only about two weeks of fuel left in mid-October because of the cutoff of foreign oil supplies, according to news reports.

Haiti's interim prime minister, Jean-Jacques Honorat, said Oct. 14 the new government is willing to negotiate the return of Aristide. But if an agreement is not reached within 45 days, elections will be held in accordance with Haiti's constitution. The move is seen as an attempt to halt the trade embargo, reports said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department urged American citizens Oct. 10 to leave Haiti and authorized voluntary departure of non-essential embassy workers and their families. About 8,000 U.S. citizens live in Haiti, considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Southern Baptist workers remaining in Haiti are missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge, from Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Glendale, Calif., and volunteer Bobby Edwards, from Greenville, S.C. The Rutledges work with an agricultural project about five hours from Port-au-Prince, the capital. Edwards, who lives in Port-au-Prince, is a mechanic for a well-drilling project. Missionaries Virgil and Patsy Suttles are on furlough in Elberton, Ga.

"We're at this point planning to stay put," Rutledge told Baptist Press in a phone interview while he was in Port-au-Prince on business. "We don't sense any real dangers ... at this time."

But it was a different story for 26 American Baptist workers who returned from Haiti to the United States Oct. 6. The workers, who were based in the Cap-Haitien area, left because of Haiti's political unrest and violence related to a local dispute over control of a Baptist secondary school in Cap-Haitien, said an American Baptist official.

The unrest resulted in the burning of the headquarters of the Baptist Convention of Haiti in Cap-Haitien Sept. 30. Both American and Southern Baptist missionaries relate to the convention.

Eight American Baptist missionaries and volunteers, along with a number of family members, remain in place at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Limbe, according to American Baptist news reports.

The situation has been calm in the rural area near Hinche where the Rutledges live, Rutledge said. People are just beginning to learn of the embargo and are trying to understand what it will mean for them.

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For the Rutledges, the embargo will mean curtailing travel, which is a large part of their work. "But we've got plenty of (other) work to do, and even if we're at home, there's always a backlog of things to do, so it isn't really a problem," he said.

People in the area are buying fuel rapidly and storing it in drums as they prepare for the effects of the embargo, Rutledge said. People in the capital also are bracing for the worst, Edwards added. "Last night there were 40 to 50 people waiting in line for kerosene" used for cooking fuel, he said. Residents also are stocking up on food.

Edwards, who is single, plans to stay put in Port-au-Prince for the time being. If unrest escalates in the days ahead, he and several friends have a contingency plan to gather for safety at Edwards' home in a quiet neighborhood.

"There is still a lot of hope," said Edwards. "But there are so many rumors going around that sometimes, depending on who you talk to, you can be a little discouraged. An end is not in sight yet."

Rutledge called on Southern Baptists to pray for "God's leadership and direction" for leaders trying to solve the problems in Haiti.

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Churches grow, feed refugees
as Liberia awaits peace

By Donald D. Martin

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MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)--Baptist churches in Liberia's capital are growing -- and aiding refugees -- despite an elusive peace settlement of the west African nation's two-year civil war.

New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Monrovia has grown from about 40 to 190 members in the last few months, reported missionary Bradley Brown, from Marietta, Ga.

Part of the growth has resulted from a Southern Baptist-sponsored program that has fed more than 47,000 Liberian refugees since February. One of the food distribution centers is based at New Jerusalem Church.

Baptists in Monrovia are supplementing the United Nations' food distribution program in Monrovia by temporarily feeding newly arrived refugees. Refugees must wait several days before the United Nations food distribution system processes their requests. Missionaries and Liberian Baptists have filled the gap with their own relief program, distributing food through six Baptist churches.

Liberian peace talks in September made progress with the signing of a disarmament agreement. However, Charles Taylor, Liberia's main rebel leader, continues to delay a lasting political settlement. Taylor recently said he would abide by the agreement and instruct his National Patriotic Front of Liberia forces to disarm, but would not surrender the rebels' weapons to the west African peacekeeping force stationed in Liberia.

"We will lock up the arms and keep the keys," Taylor said in an October press conference. He claimed the disarmament agreement only requires him to collect his weapons, not necessarily to release control of them.

Taylor also insisted his further cooperation in a political settlement is linked to a reduction in the number of peacekeeping troops in Liberia. He has demanded the 7,000 peacekeeping troops be scaled back to about 1,500.

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Taylor's forces control most of Liberia, while Nigerian-led peacekeeping forces control the Monrovia area and back Amos Sawyer and his interim government. The latest peace agreement has called for an election commission to organize and supervise nationwide elections. Since signing the agreement, Sawyer announced plans to hold democratic election within nine months.

These tentative steps toward peace are welcomed, but missionaries are having difficulty with long-term planning because of the current unstable situation, said Betty Kay Yamaoka, associate area director for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's work in west Africa.

"They held a mission meeting in August and brought back some of the missionaries who are on temporary assignment to other missions. At the meeting they talked about long-term plans but they've not settled on anything right now," Yamaoka explained. "They'll continue to undergird and support ministries for the local church, but in the long-term we can't say, for example, when institutions will open."

The civil war started on Christmas Eve 1989 with the invasion of Taylor's forces from the Ivory Coast. Taylor sought to overthrow President Samuel Doe and his government, charging the regime with corruption, nepotism and human rights abuses. Doe was killed by a splinter rebel group in September 1990.

At the beginning of the civil war, more than 50 Southern Baptist missionaries were working in the country. The fighting forced most of the missionaries to evacuate in June 1990. The current force stands at 10 missionaries. Eight work in Monrovia and another couple works in Yekepa, a small town in northern Liberia.

The missionaries in Monrovia are Brown and his wife, Carolyn, of Atlanta; John and Betty Carpenter, of Toccoa and Gainesville, Ga., respectively; Jim and Jane Park of Paducah, Ky.; and Lawrence and Alice Hardy of Savannah, Ga. Ed Laughridge of Rock Hill, S.C., and his wife, Mary, of Great Falls, S.C., are in Yekepa.

When missionaries returned last February, they hoped to reopen the Liberian Baptist Theological Seminary, which closed in May 1990 because of the civil war. But it's still too early to consider reopening the seminary, Yamaoka said.

Beyond logistical problems in a war-ravaged economy, a factor in the delay is deliberations with the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Education Convention. "We want the convention to be involved and we want to take this opportunity to look at the long-term functioning of the seminary," she said. "So we're taking a long-term look at the nationalization of the institution."

Meanwhile, Brown and the other missionaries in Monrovia plan to begin a Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program. A Baptist World Alliance fact-finding team that visited Liberia in August also stressed the need for more Christian education.

"They were surprised at not finding more need for hunger relief. They found those needs were better met than they had expected," Yamaoka said. "So they came back with recommendations for church development such as TEE rather than recommendations for relief of hunger."

Despite signs of improvement, Liberia remains a very difficult place to work, Yamaoka explained. "I know our missionaries would appreciate prayer support for their emotional and spiritual state as they try and minister in what continues to be a difficult situation."

Golden Gate trustees approve student housing renovation; authorize Multi-Cultural Center

By Cameron Crabtree & James Watters

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--In a show of support for meeting student needs, trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary approved spending \$500,000 in capital funds to renovate student housing and authorized establishment of a learning Center for Multi-Cultural Ministry.

In a first-ever meeting on the seminary's Northwest Campus in Portland, Ore., Oct. 7-8, the board of trustees noted the fifth anniversary of President William O. Crews Jr.

"There are a lot of things about the past five years that we all would have desired to be different," Crews told trustees. "However, it seems to me that we are entering the most exciting and challenging time in the history of our school."

The last five years have been marked by financial and enrollment pressures, but Crews declared the seminary has regained stability and put problems behind: "By 1994, when Golden Gate celebrates its 50th anniversary, we hope to be engaged in the most exciting, dynamic leader-training ministry ever witnessed by any seminary of any day in any place."

The Learning Center for Multi-Cultural Ministry, Crews said, was crucial to meeting the challenges of the growing diversity in the western United States. Golden Gate Seminary is the only Southern Baptist Convention agency in the region.

"Our students will either take a course in cross-cultural ministry while they are in seminary or they will take it 'out there' after graduation," he emphasized.

The center will serve as an umbrella for several divisions specializing in particular ethnic groups. The first division will focus on Asian cultural concerns, according to Clayton K. Harrop, acting academic dean of the three-campus West Coast school.

"Golden Gate's unique setting on the Pacific Rim suggests that its future is tied to the need to minister to ethnic people, especially those from Asia," he said. "It also appears that the future of ministry in the West and around the world may well be tied to the training of ethnic leadership."

The present program of Golden Gate Seminary is geared to students from the Anglo culture and mentality, Harrop also noted. "The objective of (Golden Gate) is to equip students to serve the churches and the cultures to which God will call them ... (meaning) that the seminary must take seriously the differences which exist within the student body and their churches."

This innovative approach to the training of Christian ministers reflects Golden Gate's multi-cultural setting in all three of its campus locations.

Demographic studies indicate early in the next decade the majority of the population in both the San Francisco Bay area and southern California will be non-white, said trustee John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Baptist Church of Houston, who presented the recommendation. The Northwest also has seen rapid growth in its ethnic population.

Renovation of 30-year-old student housing on the Mill Valley campus will occur as apartment and dormitory units are vacant. Trustees urged administration officials to look at turning some of the school's one-bedroom apartment units into two- and three-bedroom units. President Crews indicated this possibility is under consideration.

Seminary officials said student housing issues have concerned them for several years. With the cost of living in Marin County 37 percent higher than the national average, off-campus housing is beyond the budget of most students.

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In a post-meeting press conference, trustee chairman Dick Lincoln, pastor of Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., referred to this as "one of the actions which was very pleasing about this meeting. This was a unanimous vote to significantly upgrade the student housing on the main campus. Over a half-million dollars from SBC capital funds designated for student housing are being devoted to this important project.

"We want to provide not only the best education for the students who come our way, but the very best possible living conditions, as well."

In other financial matters, trustees:

-- Approved the 1989-90 audit which has been delayed because of the installation of a new computer system; the 1990-91 audit will be completed by Nov. 1 and mailed to trustees;

-- Approved spending \$17,000 in capital funds to upgrade the seminary's Child Development Center;

-- Assigned the board's personnel committee the responsibility of reviewing salary concerns on a regular basis. Faculty and staff at the seminary have received only a 4 percent raise over the last five years.

-- Established minimum funding requirements for endowed chairs at \$500,000; endowed professorships at \$250,000; endowed lectureships at \$50,000; and endowed scholarships at \$5,000.

-- Endorsed a comprehensive fund raising strategy for the seminary.

In a motion partly aimed at affirming Cooperative Program giving by local churches, trustees agreed to receive funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as long as all six SBC seminaries are funded. Golden Gate receives about \$3,000 monthly from the fellowship.

Although the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship represents Southern Baptist churches who are dissatisfied with the conservative direction of the SBC, it reports that nearly 78 percent of funds received from churches by the fellowship are channeled directly to SBC agencies, with more than 19 percent channeled through state or regional Southern Baptist conventions.

The motion by California trustee Robert Lewis, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Fairfield, prompted remarks from a number of trustees.

"We depend on the Cooperative Program and I don't know why we can't publicly say that," said Wayne Woods, pastor of First Baptist Church in Alma, Ga., in support of not accepting the money.

"As long as they (the fellowship) are not putting strings on the money they send us we ought to take it," said Robert Zinn, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in San Bernardino, Calif.

Cecil Pearson, retired executive director of California Baptist Foundation from Fresno, voiced concern for local church autonomy: "I'm uncomfortable with accepting the money because of the philosophical problem, but it makes me more uncomfortable when we're saying to the local church we don't honor your sovereign right."

Trustees approved a plan which continues to welcome funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as long as all six SBC schools are receiving some funding; should the president be notified in writing and obtain verification of total defunding of one school, further receipts from the CBF are to be escrowed until the full board of trustees has given further consideration to the matter.

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In a post-meeting press conference President Crews said he felt the matter of funding through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship had been "handled very carefully, as a matter of this concern should always be handled.

"I am very appreciative that the decision was made to allow the executive committee to look at any future action on this matter and give it the consideration it is due before making a recommendation to the board."

In matters related to faculty the board of trustees unanimously granted tenure to Barry Stricker, assistant professor of theology and Christian philosophy. They also approved half-year sabbaticals for Oscar Brooks, professor of New Testament interpretation, and Dwight Honeycutt, professor of church history.

During the two-day meeting a tour was arranged by NWBC Executive Director Cecil Sims, to the ten-acre site in Clark County, (suburban Vancouver) Wash., where new campus facilities are being proposed for Northwest Center, along with expanded office space for the Northwest Baptist Foundation and the NWBC staff.

President Crews told the Northwest Baptist Witness, newsjournal for the Northwest Baptist Convention, "Our trustees were impressed by the vision of Northwest Baptists in providing space for the training of church leaders for the Northwest. I sensed in every trustee making comments to me an appreciation for the magnitude of the project Northwest Baptists are considering for their future. There was a special appreciation on the part of our trustees for the commitment of our Northwest churches to continue providing facilities for the Northwest Center.

"I think the trustees picked up the Northwest spirit of missions during this meeting. It was a very good decision of our trustees to plan this regular meeting of our board in the Northwest so they could see for themselves the vision and spirit Baptists of the Northwest have for reaching this great region," Crews said.

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(Crabtree is director of public relations for Golden Gate Seminary; Watters is editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness.)

Carlisle Driggers will be recommended for S.C. post

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COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)--B. Carlisle Driggers will be nominated as executive secretary-treasurer of the General Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention. If elected, he will succeed Ray P. Rust, who will retire Feb. 29, 1992.

Driggers, 54, has been executive assistant to Rust since 1990. His nomination will be voted on during the state convention's annual meeting Nov. 12-13 in Greenville. The 85-member general board acts for the state's largest religious organization when it is not in annual session.

"Dr. Driggers exhibits both the personal and ministerial gifts and abilities to lead South Carolina Baptists into the next century," said Donald P. Davis, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Cayce, and chairman of the seven-member search committee that presented the recommendation to the general board.

"He has a broad background of experience in denominational life, as a pastor, church staff member, and staff member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board," he said.

The search committee was impressed with Driggers' "great vision for South Carolina Baptists" and especially his leadership in the general board's 10-year church growth emphasis that will be presented to the convention next month, Davis said.

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The convention's constitution provides the executive secretary-treasurer shall be nominated by the general board and elected by the convention for an indefinite term. Other nominations from the floor are allowed.

Rust said although he was not involved with the search committee in their process, he could not be more pleased with this announcement.

"I am delighted that Dr. Driggers has felt inclined to allow our search committee to propose him to the general board as the nominee for the position of executive secretary-treasurer," Rust said, adding, "Dr. Driggers has the experience, temperament and commitment to serve effectively, and I know of no one more committed to the growth and development of churches."

Driggers is a native of Hartsville, S.C. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College and of Carson-Newman College. He earned both the master of divinity and master of arts degrees in Christian education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He earned the doctor of ministry degree from Pittsburgh (Pa.) Theological Seminary. He completed clinical pastoral education at Weston (W.V.) State Hospital, and received certification in church finance and administration from Emory University.

He has previous denominational service on the staff of the Home Mission Board. For 10 years he was a regional consultant for the eastern states. Prior to that, he was associate director of black church relations for three years.

Driggers and his wife, Jeanette, have two married children and two grandchildren.

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Resolving conflicts involves
shedding learned responses

By Terri Lackey

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Verbal sparring in marriages is as common as the cold, but conflict resolution is not so normal because guidelines are seldom learned as a child, a counselor and his wife said.

"How was conflict handled in your home?" Jim Rowles asked couples attending a Fall Festival of Marriage conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center, Oct. 11-13. "The way you saw anger handled is the way you will probably handle it."

Rowles, a licensed professional counselor and president of Rowles Counseling Service in Halifax, Va., and his wife, Ruth Rowles, secretary/treasurer of the business, co-taught the class, "Resolving Our Conflict," Oct. 11-13. They are members of Beth Car Baptist Church in Halifax.

"We bring to our marriages all these old tapes, but it is never too late to learn new ways of doing things," Rowles said.

Anger is usually handled in two ways -- by venting or suppressing, Rowles said.

"Venters yell, explode, slam doors, blame and put down," he said. Venters explain their "inappropriate behavior" by saying they inherited this type of anger.

Suppressors retreat. They leave the scene of action; they go for a walk or take a drive, Rowles said.

"They stuff everything down in a gunny sack, and then some seemingly innocuous incident eventually triggers their emotion and that sack overflows."

Invariably, Rowles said, venters marry suppressors.

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"If venting is inappropriate and suppressing is equally inappropriate, then what's a couple going to do?" he asked. "Acknowledge your anger and deal with it."

"Anger is a God-given emotion. It is natural," Rowles said. It should be as easy to say, 'I'm angry' as it is to say, 'I'm hungry' or 'I'm tired.'"

Anger is a secondary response to a many different types of situations, he said. Often it is the result of a lack of communication, self-centeredness or feeling of being attacked.

"Anger is a secondary emotion," he said. "Being pushed beyond your limits is the primary emotion."

"When two people live together from day to day, they are going to have conflict," Ruth Rowles said. "You can't be loving when you're angry, and you can't be angry when you're loving."

People must feel like they are fully known and deeply loved, she said, and couples cannot feel they are "fully known unless they disclose their anger."

Happiness is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to deal creatively with it."

The Rowleses listed three essentials of coping effectively with anger -- commitment to growth of the relationship, communication and ability to accept conflict positively and resolve it creatively.

In attempting to resolve conflict, couples must avoid determining a winner. "No one is right or wrong," Ruth Rowles said. "You cannot be concerned with who wins. If one of you wins, the relationship loses. You both must win."

Understanding where anger comes from helps diffuse a potentially explosive situation, Jim Rowles said.

"You should ask yourself, 'What are my attitudes toward this conflict.' Dig deeper down into your childhood to find where it's coming from," he said.

Listening intently to what the other person has to say is also important, he said.

"You have to listen to what your partner is saying and accept it as informational," he said. "You have to try to get down and understand what he or she is feeling. Don't listen with your answer running."

In a separate conference, "Fighting and Forgiving," Debby and Jeff McElroy, listed several "rules for fighting." The McElroys are a husband and wife ministry team and members of Westbury Baptist Church in Houston.

Those rules are:

- Be committed to honesty and mutual respect.
- When feelings are shared they are not right or wrong, they just are.
- Attack the problem not the person.
- Fight as the issues come up.
- Avoid fighting when you're angry or tired.
- Be ready with a positive solution after taking a swing.
- Watch your words and guard your tone; lower your voice instead of raising it.

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- Give each other time to speak. Listen.
- Don't leave the scene of a fight.
- Look at each other when fighting.
- Remember the issue is never as important as the relationship.
- Don't let pride stand in your way.
- Say, 'I'm sorry, please forgive me.'
- Say, 'I forgive you.'

More than 1,000 participants attended the Fall Festival at Ridgecrest, Oct. 11-13. Thirteen such conferences will have been held this year by mid-November, according to David Huebner of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department, sponsor of the events.