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WASHINGTON -- U.S. should lead effort to end atrocities, Land says.
KENYA -- Southern Baptist worker escapes when assailant's gun misfires; photos.
HAWAII -- Counting blessings in Hawaii, mission pastor needs one more.

SBC Cooperative Program gifts
up in December by 3 percent

Baptist Press
1/5/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for December were up 3.14 percent over the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

December CP receipts totaled \$10,906,778 compared to December 1991 of \$10,575,202.

"I am encouraged by the increase in Cooperative Program receipts for the month of December," Chapman said. "For the sake of world missions, I have great hope that in 1993 Southern Baptists once again will establish an upward trend in CP giving."

The 1992-93 SBC monthly basic operating budget requirement is \$11,683,366. The 1992-93 SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget is \$140,200,395.

For the fiscal year (October through September) first quarter, CP gifts are nearly even with those in the same time period in 1991-92: \$33,471,798 compared to \$33,472,910, or a difference of \$1,111.

Designated gifts for the first quarter were still up, 9.98 percent over the same time period in the previous fiscal year: \$7,573,443 compared to \$6,885,997. The December designated gifts were \$3,088,574 compared to December 1991 of \$3,113,55 or 0.8 percent difference.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries. The percentage of distribution is at the discretion of each state or regional convention.

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U.S. should lead effort to
end atrocities, Land says

By Tom Strode

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The United States of America not only is justified in its military role to provide humanitarian aid in Somalia but has the responsibility to lead a multi-nation effort to halt atrocities in former Yugoslavia, Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land said recently.

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Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, called for the United States' increased action in the face of Serbia's "ethnic cleansing" of Bosnians during two nationally telecast news programs during Christmas week and in a telephone interview.

"I don't think the United States unilaterally has the right to intervene in Bosnia," Land said in an interview. "I do say that the United States has a responsibility to use its leadership to try to put together a multi-national coalition that would intervene to stop the gross, grotesque violation of human rights taking place in Bosnia."

The "tragic fact is that if we don't take the lead, it simply won't be done," Land said.

"I think there is a great deal at stake, as I've said before, and clearly I don't think that the Bush administration's policies have been as forthright or forthcoming as they should have been," Land said.

Land and representatives of other religious groups discussed the conflicts in Somalia and Bosnia during the Public Broadcasting System's "MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour" Dec. 23 and CNN's "Newsmaker Saturday" Dec. 26.

On "Newsmaker Saturday," Land said the United States and other countries should consider "that the former Soviet Union is a mass of these kinds of conflicts. And if we do not show the ability to effectively deal with these situations in the Bosnian situation, we're going to be faced with eight, nine, 10, 11 of these things over the next couple to three years."

Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, seemed to agree on the same program.

If "ethnic cleansing is allowed to proceed unchecked," Schindler said, "then there's going to be a repetition, a kind of domino (effect) throughout Eastern Europe that may ultimately encompass the whole world."

"Let me be perfectly clear," Land said in the interview. "I believe that the lives of millions of people are at stake. If the international community of nations does not stop the ethnic cleansing genocide in Bosnia, hundreds of thousands of people are going to be slaughtered and butchered across large segments of the globe in the remaining years of this decade."

"If, however, we are able to lead the nations of the world to make an effective, firm, successful intervention to first stop the slaughter and second bring the perpetrators and their leaders before the international bar of justice," Land said, "then we have genuine and real hope for a relatively hopeful, civilized last decade of an exceptionally uncivilized and bloody 20th century."

The United States cannot "intervene anywhere and in every circumstance where injustice takes place," but the standard set by the international community at the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals still applies, Land said.

"We established a threshold below which a nation cannot descend without international repercussion, international intervention and international justice in the form of war crimes trials," Land said in the interview. "The precedent that was set at Nuremberg was, 'Even if something is legal in your country, it is illegal if it violates the standards of basic, civilized behavior, and you will be held culpable for giving or carrying out such orders.'"

"The ethnic cleansing being perpetrated by the Serbs on the Bosnians is as gross a violation of international standards of minimal, civilized behavior as anything that has happened on the European continent since the fall of Adolf Hitler," Land said. "Concentration camps, extermination as a policy objective, and torture, rape and pillage are reminiscent of the worst excesses of Nazi storm troopers. The differences between what is taking place in Bosnia and what happened under the Nazis are differences only of scale and degree, not of immorality, barbarism and cruelty."

The international community already would have responded with force if the crimes committed in Eastern Europe had taken place across international borders, Land said.

"The hangup has been, 'How does the international community respond to the descent below this minimal threshold of civilized behavior established at Nuremberg within a country?'" Land said. "It is a dilemma we have been wrestling with since the 1930s, when the German government had an official policy of ethnic cleansing against German Jews. Most would agree that if we had been more forceful in our response then, World War II and the indescribable atrocity of the Holocaust could possibly have been prevented."

The conflict in former Yugoslavia is an ethnic and religious one. The Serbs are Eastern Orthodox; the Bosnians are Muslims. One of the atrocities committed by the Serbs is rape, which reportedly has been ordered by some military commanders and has involved thousands of women.

"Rape should be added to the international standard of war crimes," Land said in the interview. "When rape occurs as a result of the breakdown of order which accompanies armed conflict and the perpetrators are appropriately punished by the civilian and military authorities involved, that is one thing. When rape is encouraged and sponsored as part of a nation's policy of war against its enemies, then it is a war crime and both the people responsible for creating the policy and those responsible for implementing it should be tried before international war crimes tribunals."

In a Nov. 12 open letter to President-elect Clinton, Land expressed concerns about the Bosnian crisis and said Southern Baptists would support him in efforts to do more to protect human rights in that region and other areas of the world.

"I've been very disturbed about events in the former Yugoslavia for many months," Land said in the interview. "I waited until after the election to say anything publicly so that what I said would not be lost in the electoral clutter or misinterpreted as part of the electoral process."

Both the Somalia and Bosnian situations meet the criteria outlined for armed intervention according to Christian just-war theory, Land said. Those criteria are: 1) just cause; 2) just intent; 3) last resort; 4) legitimate authority; 5) limited goals; 6) proportionality, and 7) noncombatant immunity.

In the televised panel discussions and the interview, Land stressed the United States must have legitimate authority before leading a military effort. For the United States, such authority should include the approval of Congress and the United Nations, he said. The United States and its allies also do not have the right to impose a Western-style democracy but should make it possible for a country's people to decide what form of government they desire, Land said.

In light of the end of the Cold War, the message to enemies of freedom expressed by President Kennedy in 1961 still is appropriate, Land said. In his inaugural address, Kennedy said "a new generation of Americans" had risen to leadership "ready to pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and success of liberty."

In light of Vietnam, however, some words Land wrote in 1990 about the Persian Gulf crisis still apply, he said. He wrote: "Never allow our soldiers to be placed at the uncertain end of a long tether without sufficient support and resolve at home to give them all necessary means to do the job. If it is worth American soldiers dying, it is worth winning. And unless our survival or liberty is at stake, it must be winnable. If it is not worth winning, (including the just-war criteria), it is not worth the shedding of our citizens' blood."

In addition to Land and Schindler, the other three panelists on "Newsmaker Saturday" agreed war sometimes is just. The other panelists were Elenora Giddings Ivory, director of the Washington office of the Presbyterian Church, USA; Bryan Hehir, a Catholic priest on the faculty of Harvard's Divinity School; and Imad Ahmad, president of the Islamic-American Zakat Foundation.

Joe Volk, a Quaker leader, and Camille D'Arienzo, a member of the Catholic pacifist group Pax Christi, withheld support for the United States' intervention in Somalia on the "MacNeil/Lehrer" program. The other four panelists -- Land; Shindler; Ghazi Khankan, president of the National Council on Islamic Affairs; and Orris Walker, an Episcopal bishop -- endorsed the military action in Somalia.

**Southern Baptist worker escapes
when assailant's gun misfires** **By Craig Bird**

MANDERA, Kenya (BP)--An attempted shooting of a Southern Baptist aid worker in a Somalia refugee camp in Kenya failed Jan. 4 when an automatic rifle misfired.

Loyd Banes, an International Service Corps volunteer with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was the target of a man who yanked a rifle from a burlap bag as Banes drove past just a few feet away.

The gunman threw down the weapon and the bag when guards from CARE, an aid organization, chased him. A hand grenade was inside the bag.

Banes, from Woodstock, Ga., drove immediately into town and brought Kenya police back but they could not locate the attacker.

The incident came just two days after Somalis murdered a UNICEF doctor in Kismayu, Somalia. (Several Southern Baptists had worked closely with the victim, Sean Devereaux, last fall in a southern Somalia town.)

Banes and his wife, Doris, are on a six-month assignment working at a 50,000-population refugee camp outside Mandera, Kenya, just across the border from Somalia.

Banes said the man was unknown to him and had not waved for him to stop before leveling the rifle.

David Sorley, the missionary physician heading up Southern Baptists work in Mandera, said the Baneses, who had escaped injury in an earlier incident, declined to leave the city after the attack.

A fire fight broke out just outside their house Dec. 23, when one Somalia clan crossed the border at night and attacked another clan.

Unlike Somalia, where there are literally reported to be more guns than people, Mandera is free of public displays of guns.

In Kenya only the military and the police are authorized to have weapons. However, since Mandera is less than a mile from the Somalia border, guns are possible to obtain.

The Baneses are members of First Baptist Church in Woodstock. They are both natives of Alabama and former residents of Texas.

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(BP) photos (mug shots) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

**Counting blessings in Hawaii,
mission pastor needs one more** **By Bob Allen**

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1/5/93

WAIKOLOA, Hawaii (BP)--Russell Morris has seen miracles since leaving Maryland in 1989 to become a mission pastor in Hawaii. Like getting a chance to buy 12.3 acres of property in Hawaii's fastest-growing boom town for \$325,000.

Developers of Waikoloa, a once-sleepy retirement village on the island of Hawaii's west side, invited the church into their community to provide day care for construction workers and employees at new businesses, including a nearby new luxury resort hotel. They had wanted a good program, with as few administrative headaches as possible, and they had wanted stability and integrity -- someone more interested in contributing to the community than turning a fast buck.

Morris said his association's director of missions and state convention's executive director dropped their eyes in disbelief when the developer announced the sale price and added it was a tangible expression of how Waikoloa Baptist Church and its "keikiland" day-care program had surpassed his high expectations.

After the sale, a tax assessor valued the property at \$3.5 million.

"That's a miracle," Morris said in a telephone interview Jan. 2.

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It has seemed like the Lord is smiling on Waikoloa since Russell and Brenda Morris left the pastorate of Woolford Memorial Church in Baltimore to lead Waikoloa's fledgling mission and day-care efforts. From the open door into the town, to the warm acceptance by townspeople, to a board of zoning appeals which gave the congregation virtually free rein for use of their property. "If God had not been involved in it from the beginning, none of this would have happened," Morris said with certainty.

Morris has seen miracles. God willing, he would like to see one more.

The Morrises had planned to be in Maryland in January to devote a month-long furlough to sharing their vision for Waikoloa on the mainland, hoping to gain support from friends for a \$1.5 million building program that would vastly expand the mission's ability to minister. However, Russell became ill from a blockage in the liver, which all concede is likely a recurrence of cancer which necessitated radical surgery in December 1991.

Morris said he is taking medication and has a tube inserted for drainage, which improved a jaundice condition and made him feel somewhat better. "I'm still very, very sluggish," he said.

He had hoped to make the trip despite his health, waiting until the night before leaving finally to decide he was too weak for the hectic schedule he had committed for himself. "I pushed as hard as I could not to cancel," he said. Optimistically, he thinks of the furlough as being "on hold" for the present rather than canceled altogether. For now, however, nothing is certain.

Morris said now that the holidays are past, doctors and the family will review options that could range from waiting and hoping the tumor spreads slowly to various kinds of treatment. He doubts surgery is an option.

Thirteen months ago, Morris was admitted to the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Ariz., for what he expected to be routine surgery to remove a growth on the colon. During the operation, surgeons found cancer in the gall bladder, which they removed, and the pancreas, from which they shaved cancerous tissue. "It was horrendous surgery," Morris said, that many people were surprised he survived.

During that surgery, doctors also discovered a spot on the liver, which they treated with rounds of chemotherapy and radiation. The new problem is suspected to be a sign that the cancer has built a resistance to the original treatment and is now coming back.

Morris has curtailed some pastoral responsibilities. He is still preaching and doing public relations for the building program, but he initiated a frank discussion with two deacons to announce he will need more help in immediate phases of the fund-raising and building project. "This is going to have to be our growth year and they are going to have to do some legwork for me," he said. "I'm just not able to do that."

He said the lay leaders are willing, but they are likewise spread thinly. Though they have come a long way from their first Sunday in Waikoloa, when Russ, Brenda and their then-high school-age daughter, Kyra, (a son, Barry, serves in the Air Force) were three-fourths of the congregation, the mission is still small. Officially, there are 24 members. Regular visitors and tourists swell the congregation to "40 or so on a good Sunday," Morris said.

The keikiland -- "keiki" is Hawaiian for "child" -- is at capacity in rented facilities. Its size will almost double in the proposed building project, from accommodating 50 to 90, adding half-day and after school-care services to the 7 a.m.-5 p.m. daily preschool program now offered.

A 4,800-square-foot sanctuary will seat 300. Two multi-purpose buildings will provide commensurate space for education. The building will be large by island standards. However, with projections that Waikoloa's population will continue to grow, from the current 5,500 to 10,000 by the year 2,000 -- and only one other church in town -- the space will be needed, Morris said.

The building will create possibilities for new services, like senior adult care, Morris said. It will also permit a shift in philosophy for the congregation.

"For the community, the day care has supported the church and the church is the outgrowth of the day care," he said. "We want to turn that around. We want the church to become the center of our ministries.

"The church is really starting to turn the corner," he said. "We have spent most of the time up to now just building relationships and letting people know they could trust us," a big issue in Hawaii. Lately, the number of first-time visitors is up and people in town are more responsive to visits. "I think we are going to see a lot of increase right away," he said.

The mission has a small building fund, about \$23,000 in hand, and Morris has written a number of friends who he hopes may connect his church to individuals with both resources for and commitment to home missions. Thwarted for now in his attempt to seek those people out, Morris said the door is open for them to come to Hawaii and see the work for themselves. A guest house is available on the church and keikiland's compound. A number of mainland Baptists have already been guests at Waikoloa. "We would be delighted for folks to come," he said.

Asked to share prayer requests, Morris responded, "My health."

He also asked prayer support for opportunities for witness made possible because of illness. "The Lord is opening some arenas of conversation and witness I would not be able to have if I did not have cancer."

He asked prayer for the church, and for Brenda who is "under tremendous strain" not only from his illness but also from a demanding work schedule. The Morrises hope the Home Mission Board will be able to provide help qualified to give her needed relief.

He also sought prayer for the fund-raising effort. "We need some folks who are really committed to missions," he said. His goal is to begin some kind of building on the new site during the first quarter of 1993. That goal, however, is contingent on funding.

For now, Morris' whole ministry is a contingency. "I don't know what the future holds," he said. "I'm not telling the Lord what to do, the Lord can do what he wants to do, but I would really like to stay here long enough to direct this project through a reasonable state of progress.

"I would like to stay until it's completed but I don't know if that's possible."

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