

**(BP)**

SOUTHERN  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

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

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
SBC Executive Committee  
901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
(615) 244-2355  
Herb Hollinger, Vice President  
Fax (615) 742-8919  
CompuServe ID# 70420,17

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** 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** 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 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

July 13, 1993

93-112

TENNESSEE -- Brotherhood responds to disaster with water purification unit.  
ILLINOIS -- Illinois Baptists keep cooking while Mississippi River rises.  
MISSOURI -- Wedding goes on despite flood pandemonium.  
NORTH CAROLINA -- God still breaks down barriers, Rankin tells Jericho listeners; photo.  
BELGIUM -- Letters show radio effective in reaching North Africans.  
CHINA -- Baptist student earns spot on top Chinese volleyball team; photos.  
ATLANTA -- Broadman & Holman Publishers announce major video project.

Brotherhood responds to disaster  
with water purification unit

By Steve Barber

Baptist Press  
7/13/93

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission announced July 13 it will spend \$25,000 in unbudgeted funds for a water purification unit to assist flood victims in Des Moines, Iowa.

The city's water supply has been contaminated by rising floodwaters in the area and unusable since yesterday. Local authorities say it may be 30 days or more before the system is back to normal.

The request to supply the unit came to the Brotherhood Commission from Richard Lambert, missions director for the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

The unit is manufactured by Global Waters Technology in Dallas and can purify up to 100,000 gallons of water every 24 hours. It would help meet a tremendous demand for fresh water in an area where residents are now waiting several hours each day for a small ration from tank trucks and two smaller purification units already operating.

"Until yesterday, we didn't have a mission," said Jim Furgerson, disaster relief coordinator at the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. "Now we have a mission."

The agency coordinates the response of state Baptist convention disaster units when more than one state is involved. Feeding units from Missouri and Illinois have been active for several days in flood-stricken areas of their respective states.

As of July 13, the Illinois unit had been at Pleasant Hill, Ill., on the Mississippi River south of Quincy since July 3 and had served more than 40,000 meals. In the meantime, Missouri Baptist Convention volunteers have been serving more than 8,000 meals per day at Edmondson Road Baptist Church in St. Louis, about 700 meals per day at First Baptist Church of Winfield north of St. Louis and about 150 per day at First Baptist Church in Weston, near Kansas City.

According to Furgerson, the response to the flooding in the Midwest is just beginning and has yet to reach the scope of the Southern Baptist involvement in the wake of Hurricane Andrew last year.

"The Red Cross tells us that about 150,000 meals have been served from all sources since this flood emergency began," Furgerson said. "Some of our units in south Florida were serving that many each day" at the peak of the response to Andrew.

The American Red Cross also said Monday that 7,513 dwelling units had been destroyed or severely damaged; this compares to more than 50,000 homes lost in Florida.

--more--

Coordination of the Southern Baptist response by the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis is likely to grow with the number of state conventions involved. Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee are now recruiting volunteers for immediate response to needs that will arise when the waters recede, including additional feeding and "mud-out" work.

The Brotherhood Commission's primary Southern Baptist program assignment is missions education for men and boys. Disaster relief is an outgrowth of the agency's emphasis on mission action.

Persons wishing to make donations for the purchase of the water purification unit to be sent to Iowa may send contributions to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, (901) 272-2461. Designate the contribution for water purification.

--30--

Wedding goes on despite  
flood's pandemonium

By Shari Schubert

Baptist Press  
7/13/93

CRYSTAL CITY, Mo. (BP)--Rising floodwaters couldn't drown the spirits of Scott Peters and Kimberly Flieg.

The couple went through with their planned formal wedding July 10 at First Baptist Church of Festus/Crystal City near St. Louis, even though most of the church's parking lot was two to three feet underwater and sandbaggers were working around the building even as they said their vows.

Peters grew up in the Festus/Crystal City church, explained pastor Richard Adams, and his family has longtime ties with the congregation -- his father and grandfather are both deacons there.

The possibility of moving the wedding to another facility was suggested, Adams said, but the family chose to hold the event in their own church, despite the "pandemonium all around."

Streets around the church were underwater and adjoining businesses had been forced to close because of flooding, Adams said. As of July 13, one back entrance to the church was still accessible by road. Water was leaking into a basement, but workers so far had been successful in pumping it out as fast as it was coming in.

The church held its regular Sunday morning services July 12, using church buses to shuttle people from a parking lot a few blocks away. Sunday evening worship was dismissed so members could help with the sandbagging operation.

As the surrounding community succumbs to the flooding, Adams noted "there's a sense of losing control." He said the church is doing all it can to maintain "business as usual," anything people in the community can look to as having a sense of stability.

--30--

God still breaks down barriers,  
Rankin tells Jericho listeners

By Irma Duke

Baptist Press  
7/13/93

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Preaching where he was appointed as a missionary 23 years earlier, Jerry Rankin told Jericho missions week participants at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center God uses people to break down barriers more imposing than the Jericho wall of old.

The new president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board recounted several present-day barriers that have collapsed as missionaries ministered in more than 129 countries around the world.

"Friends, one day we're going to hear the shout of victory when Christ returns that will make Jericho pale into a whisper," said Rankin. He preached twice at the Jericho event on home and foreign missions, sponsored each year at the Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers by five national Southern Baptist organizations.

--more--

Three years ago, Rankin said, he visited a missionary in a sensitive Muslim area. He learned two and a half years earlier two men had stopped the missionary and asked if he knew about a religion that could offer forgiveness of sin.

Until the missionary came, they said, they had never heard the name of Jesus Christ, but the missionary's witness revolutionized their lives. At the time of Rankin's visit, 14 villages among this people group had churches and 11 others had preaching points. They said that it was a matter of time until all their people would be Christians.

Rankin said he likes to consider himself a missions strategist, but God is defying men's strategies and "shaking the foundations of the kingdoms of this earth ... . We're seeing that ... being carried out as God breaks down barriers, as walls collapse" -- as they did at ancient Jericho.

Just like the children of Israel, who marched around the city of Jericho, 3,958 foreign missionaries and almost 12,000 volunteers march around the world to help break down barriers, Rankin said.

For example, he said, missionaries "are marching" in Sao Paulo, Brazil, third-largest city in the world, where 90,000 people have been baptized in the last 10 years among churches related to Southern Baptist missions. Missionaries also provide food, health care, vocational training and the gospel in Soweto, South Africa, a racially tense township of 3 million people.

Rankin described prayer walks that missionary Nan Sugg of Jackson, Miss., has taken in Tainan, Taiwan, where none of the traditional methods of witness were working.

After a year, only one person came to the worship services. People were cold and unfriendly. But Sugg walked down street after street in Tainan praying for every person, every household, every business -- using the Jericho of old as her inspiration.

Then people began to respond and many dramatically changed from centuries-old patterns of Buddhist worship.

Mission strategists, Rankin said, never dreamed missionaries could ever witness in Mongolia and Albania -- isolated, closed-off countries committed to atheism. Yet, a volunteer doctor in the capital of Albania reported he couldn't walk the streets without someone stopping him to ask about Jesus.

Rankin said these examples show God still uses his people to break down walls and he told those at Ridgecrest that they also have the potential within their lives of being used.

"The only barrier is your willingness," he said.

--30--

(BP) photo (horizontal) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutline available on SBCNet Newsroom.

Letters show radio effective  
in reaching North Africans

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press  
7/13/93

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP)--A steady trickle of responses shows that a Southern Baptist-aided radio program broadcast into North Africa effectively reaches members of a people group that has long resisted the gospel.

Each month several Kabyle Berbers report they have found faith in Christ through the broadcasts.

"As soon as I met Jesus, he saved me," one listener wrote. "Thank you again for having shown me the path of Christ."

Another listener responded: "It is really by the grace of your program and all of your help that you have saved my life ... . Because of your help I (am) no longer ignorant of eternal life."

Kabyle (Kuh-BEEL) Berbers are one of the four main groups of Berbers, a people group numbering about 20 million spread through several countries of North Africa. About 5 million Kabyles live in Algeria.

--more--

About \$20,000 per year for the broadcasts comes from Southern Baptists. Most of the rest of the \$400,000 in annual costs comes from the "Thru the Bible" organization. Three other agencies also provide financial, production and technical support for the effort.

Christian missiologists consider Berbers one of the most resistant groups to the gospel anywhere. Christian organizations have resorted to radio and other means to convey the gospel into the area because it is impossible to place missionaries there. The Kabyle Berber program is broadcast five evenings a week by Trans World Radio from its European tower in Monte Carlo.

"I hold in my heart thanks for all that you have done for me," another respondent wrote. "It is wonderful to have the letters and the little books on the Bible, as well as your messages from the radio which give joy and faith in the hearts of the people who listen to your programs."

Often listeners write to request Berber-language Bibles. "You can write to me ... but my faith in Christianity will be very great if it is in Berber," one respondent promised. The team that answers the letters sends personal responses, Berber Bibles, Berber music tapes and other materials.

At times the program gets letters from Muslims angry that Christians are spreading their faith through radio. One writer accused Christians of paying people to say they have accepted Christ and said the Anglican Church allows women into its clerical ranks "to make them prostitutes."

The letter writer may have been reflecting commonly accepted -- but untrue -- beliefs about Christianity held by many Muslims. Newspapers and other publications in the region often pass along information on Christianity that ranges from slightly inaccurate to outlandishly untrue.

Southern Baptists also provide partial funding to a radio program broadcast to Sous Berbers, another of the main Berber groups. But the financial aid for that effort probably will cease next year because of budget cuts, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrators have said.

--30--

Baptist student earns spot  
on top Chinese volleyball team

Baptist Press  
7/13/93

By Lounette Templeton

SHANGHAI, China (BP)--Harriet Sugg knows people watch her in China.

Her long blond hair and wholesome girl-next-door face are only part of the reason.

When Sugg steps onto a volleyball court, thousands of Chinese eyes watch -- especially when the announcer tells them they're about to see if the American girl can play Chinese volleyball.

"When I heard him say that at my first game, I prayed I wouldn't mess up," the Southern Baptist student said. "I played really well. And when I got off some good hits, the crowd cheered."

Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization, arranged for the Mississippi College graduate from Ridgeland, Miss., to study at a major Chinese university. But Sugg earned the spot on the school's volleyball team herself.

"I'm amazed at my audacity to ask if I could be on the team," Sugg said. "At the time, I didn't know they had the No. 1 team in China. They won national last year."

Sugg isn't a starter, but she says her place on the team is "the chance of a lifetime" to see Chinese sports from the inside. In fact, she came to China to get firsthand information about sports in the country. It fits perfectly with her plans to study sports medicine when she returns to the United States in 1994 -- and with her hopes to practice sports medicine in China someday.

Her playing has improved since the Chinese coaches began making major changes in her style.

--more--

"When I first started, everything I did, I heard them yelling 'Bu dui, bu dui' which means 'It's not right,'" she admitted. "The only thing they didn't change was my serve. But it has more power now."

Sugg learned to play volleyball at a school in Taiwan, where her parents are Southern Baptist missionaries. She played whatever sports the school offered.

"I even played soccer with the guys when they let me," she said. "I love sports, but whenever it ceases to be fun, I'll quit playing. I didn't go to college on a sports scholarship. I played for fun."

Sugg went through soul-searching to bring her love of sports, Asia and God into line. During her first year at Mississippi College in Clinton, a Southern Baptist-affiliated school, she heard a businessman tell how he touched the lives of others through his profession.

"It clicked," she recalled. "I realized, 'Hey, I can do that with sports.'" That's when she decided on a sports medicine career. But she still hadn't found a way to satisfy her love for Asia.

"I thought sports medicine could only be done in the United States. I didn't want to live in the States, but I decided if God wants it that way, it's OK," she said.

Later she heard another Christian businessman talk about his work in China and began wondering if someone with a career in sports medicine could be used there. The businessman encouraged her to "go for it." Sugg took the next logical step: she came to China for language study.

Growing up in Taiwan gave Sugg a head start with language, but becoming fluent in Chinese is just one of her goals. Her place on the volleyball team has met the next goal of checking out sports medicine in China.

As a Christian, Sugg also wants to develop good relationships with the Chinese. She's encouraged by the friendships she has made.

"My Chinese isn't that good and my teammates don't speak English, but we manage to communicate," she related. "When I missed volleyball practice at Thanksgiving, they all asked where I'd been and said they'd missed me."

Sugg doesn't force her faith on others but people know she's a Christian.

"I haven't volunteered that I'm a Christian, but everybody knows," she said. "It just comes up naturally. I wear a cross and people have asked about it. Team members asked what my father does and I explained that he's a pastor. They ask things like how I celebrate Christmas. If you're a Christian, it will come out. You can't help it."

Sugg also has befriended many international students at her school. She helped one locate a church to attend and has answered "a million questions" an American friend asked her about the Christian faith. "People come in my room and see my Bible and the stuff on my walls and ask about it," she said.

The first time she went to a church in China, she kept wondering who the people were and what their lives were like. "I have great respect for Chinese Christians. I want to identify with them and the church while I'm here," she said.

Sugg likes China. Growing up in Taiwan, she always thought of China as the "big mainland over there." Now that she's in China, it reminds her of Taiwan when she went there in 1977.

"I'm really happy here," she said. "It's a good life. My Chinese is getting better. I'm playing volleyball and meeting all these great people."

And she doesn't mind a bit if they all watch her.

--30--

(BP) photos (one horizontal, one vertical) mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Cutlines available on SBCNet Newsroom.

**Broadman & Holman Publishers  
announce major video project**

ATLANTA (BP)--Broadman & Holman Publishers announced plans for a major video project during the international convention of Christian Booksellers Association in Atlanta on July 12.

"Secret Adventures," a four-part series of morally based mini-movies, is targeted for ages 4 to 14 and will begin production in Hollywood, Calif. The first episode is scheduled for release in October.

Series creators and producers are George Taweel and Rob Loos, who previously produced the award-winning "McGee & Me!" children's video series.

The 30-minute episodes feature a seventh-grade baby sitter, Drea (short for Andrea) Thomas, who keeps her young charges, ages 7 and 9, entertained by inviting them to join her fanciful excursions. Scripts use real and imaginary experiences to teach how important Bible truths are for every day, according to Harold King, director of Broadman & Holman's trade supplies and media department, which is managing the project.

"The stories will communicate sound moral principles to a variety of issues that directly relate to children's concerns," he continued, "including such topics as jealousy, responsibility, peer pressure, pride, friendship, honesty, respect for others, perseverance, self-worth, fear and decision making."

Coupled with a creative plot will be state-of-the-art production by the Hollywood-based Taweel, Loos & Company, King said.

"The anticipated product is quality animation, coupled with real-life action and original musical scores, resulting in talking toasters, dancing paper clips and ballistic school bells," King said.

Broadman & Holman is the trade publishing division of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

HOUSE MAIL



**BAPTIST PRESS**

901 Commerce #750  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

HOUSE MAIL

So. Baptist Library & Archives  
901 Commerce  
Nashville, TN 37203