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Missionaries evacuate Rwanda
as violence continues in Kigali By Don Martin

Baptist Press
4/11/94

LIMURU, Kenya (BP)--Celebrations over the safe evacuation of Southern Baptist missionaries from Rwanda were tempered April 11 as the rescued missionaries urged prayers for the nation and its Christian community.

Concern had run high for missionaries Larry and Dianne Randolph from Oakman, Ala., and Dallas, respectively. They had not been with any of the American evacuation groups and no other missionaries had been able to directly contact the Randolphins, who live near the airport in Kigali, Rwanda's capital. The airport area has experienced heavy fighting between the Tutsi-dominated rebel army and Hutu-controlled government troops.

However, the couple arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, on a Belgian transport plane late April 11.

"I've just talked to Dianne and they are fine," said Jean Blair, Mrs. Randolph's mother in Texas. "I was worried sick about them, but they've made it out."

The other Southern Baptist missionaries -- nine adults with four children -- have been taken to housing quarters at the Brackenhurst Baptist International Conference Centre in Limuru, Kenya, a town near Nairobi.

The other Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated from Rwanda were Vernon and Sandi Sivage, from Midland and Wheeler, Texas, respectively; David and Janet Hooten, both from Knoxville, Tenn.; Martha Colwell from Athens, Ga.; Katrina Knox, from Columbia, Tenn.; Stan and Marlene Lee, both from Greenville, S.C.; and journeyman Marty Felts from Tyler, Texas.

They fear for the fate of Rwandan Baptists and other Christians, which include both Hutus and Tutsis.

"Our Baptists in Rwanda, I'm afraid, are in a bad situation," said David Hooten in an April 10 telephone interview with Baptist Press just hours after his arrival in Kenya.

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Members of the Tutsi tribe "really have to fear for their lives, because these vigilante tribes ... who are generally Hutu people, are going around searching for Tutsis and trying to just wipe them out," said Hooten.

The Hutu and Tutsi peoples of Rwanda and neighboring Burundi have a long history of tribal enmity. The Tutsis, heavily outnumbered by Hutus in both countries, were feudal leaders over the Hutus for centuries. The roles began to reverse after both countries gained independence from Belgium in 1962. Since then, the two ethnic groups have been locked in a protracted struggle that has killed tens of thousands and left more than 1 million homeless.

News reports April 11 from Rwanda said the relative calm of April 10 had been replaced by fierce fighting between the Rwandan army and rebels outside the capital of Kigali. Red Cross officials have estimated that 20,000 people have died in the ethnic slaughter, which began April 6 following the deaths of the presidents of Burundi and Rwanda.

In parts of Kigali, alleys and streets were lined with dead bodies. A report from a central hospital in the capital said medical workers there had received more more than 1,000 dead.

Contending with such violence has left Southern Baptist missionaries, now in Kenya, physically and mentally drained after living through three days of tribal bloodletting.

The missionaries left Rwanda in several different groups. Because of failed telephone communications, one group often would not know the whereabouts of other Southern Baptist co-workers.

Most of the missionaries left the country in U.S. Embassy-sponsored convoys, which drove into Burundi. From there, the U.S. military placed them aboard transport planes and flew them to Nairobi.

Even though the embassy arranged safe passage for most Americans, leaving the country was a harrowing experience for some.

For the Hootens, who had to leave their home in Cyangugu by themselves in a car with their two children, the ordeal was terrifying. Cyangugu is about a five-hour drive southwest of Kigali.

"We had been told by the U.S. Embassy to sit tight and wait for a rescue convoy or maybe even a helicopter," Hooten recounted. "But we later learned that it wasn't possible to get someone out to us. There was going to be no rescue operation."

The family decided to leave with a group of Free Methodist missionaries who live near Cyangugu. The Hootens packed their car before dawn April 9 and "made a dash" to where they were to link up the other missionaries. But no one ever came to the arranged meeting point.

The Hootens soon encountered several roadblocks set up by men carrying machetes and knives, who demanded food and money.

"At one point we came upon a mob in the middle of the road. I forced my way through them with the vehicle. I didn't want to stop," Hooten said. "I was able to get through them ... but they came charging after us and one guy got hold of the side of my door. I had my window down, and he hung onto it, trying to get me to stop. The rest of the crowd came after us with machetes and clubs. He hung onto the car and tried to stop me, but I was able to force it into gear and shove him off, and we got away."

The Hootens eventually linked up with others leaving in a convoy. The group then made their way to Bujumbura, Burundi.

"It was so hard to leave," he said. "The sooner we can get back the better."

Hooten, who grew up in Kenya and Uganda as the son of Southern Baptist missionaries, said his call to minister to the people of Rwanda is stronger than ever.

Many of the missionaries may soon begin looking for ways to help with relief work, said James Westmoreland, associate area director for Foreign Mission Board work in eastern and southern Africa.

"We might be able to use some of the evacuated missionaries with hunger relief projects in Tanzania, or in some of the countries where (Rwandan refugees) have fled," he said.

The need for immediate action already has U.S. officials and other relief groups calling for action.

"If Congress doesn't act in two weeks, it'll be too late," one relief official said of the refugees who face starvation.

Jimmy Foster, director of the Foreign Mission Board's human needs effort, plans to begin working with the evacuated missionaries from Rwanda and Burundi on relief plans.

"I think there will be a concentration of refugees on the borders (with Rwanda and Burundi)," he said. "We will implement relief efforts to these refugees."

Part of the work will be financed by \$54,650 in hunger relief funds the Foreign Mission Board released April 7.

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Muslims kill Christian defendant,
wound three in Pakistan attack

Baptist Press
4/11/94

LAHORE, Pakistan (BP)--A Pakistani Christian on trial for his life for allegedly blaspheming Islam was shot and killed April 5 by Muslim radicals outside the court.

Two other Christian defendants -- including a 13-year-old boy -- and another Christian suffered gunshot wounds in the attack.

Manzoor Masih died instantly when gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on the four Christians after a hearing at the Lahore High Court. His co-defendants, Rehmat Masih and 13-year-old Salamat Masih, were injured along with a supporter, John Joseph.

Manzoor Masih's body was riddled with nine bullets, hospital officials said, and Joseph and Rehmat Masih sustained serious injuries. Young Salamat Masih was shot in the hand.

"We were on our way to see our lawyer after the hearing when these people opened fire and Manzoor died," Salamat Masih told reporters in a Lahore hospital. "I was terrified."

Based on eyewitness accounts, Reuters news service reported three men participated in the attack. News Network International put the number at four, and said Rehmat Masih was able to identify all of them for Pakistani police before going into surgery to remove five bullets. The assailants reportedly wore no masks.

One of the attackers has been identified as Maulvi Mohammad Fazl-e-Haque, a plaintiff in the blasphemy case, according to News Network International.

Witnesses said all the gunmen appeared to be members of a Muslim extremist group led by the clergymen who brought the court case against the three Christians, Reuters reported.

Police said April 6 they were searching for the gunmen but had not yet arrested anyone.

The three Christians were arrested last May in central Punjab province after being accused by the imam of a village mosque of scrawling anti-Muslim slogans on mosque walls and throwing notes insulting Islam's Prophet, Muhammad, into mosques. According to the trio's lawyer, young Masih, who is accused of writing the slogans, is illiterate.

Under Pakistan's controversial Islamic law, all three face death if convicted of blaspheming Muhammad.

They were held without bail for five months until their case drew the attention of human rights activists. Salamat Masih was released on bail after a plea was sent to the court by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The two adult defendants were released on bail earlier this year.

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The case was moved to the provincial capital, Lahore, at the request of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, which said the three were in danger from angry Muslim extremists in their home village.

Muslim groups demanding execution of the three have gathered outside the court at each hearing.

The Bhutto government has proposed changing blasphemy laws that carry the death penalty. No one has been executed since the previous government made blasphemy a capital crime three years ago. Bhutto's cabinet also has approved criminal code measures that would imprison anyone making false accusations under the blasphemy law. Such accusations often are motivated by personal grievances, human rights workers say.

A memorial service for Manzoor Masih was planned for April 7, and was expected to be attended by Pakistani Christian leaders. A march protesting the murder and ongoing persecution of Christians also was expected, raising new fears of another attack by Muslim radicals.

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As TV news proliferates,
how much news is enough?

By Jerry B. Pierce

Baptist Press
4/11/94

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--It was 1980 and Americans were trying to figure out who shot J.R. on the CBS nighttime soap "Dallas."

Fourteen years later, Americans seem just as curious. And the television industry seems just as happy to oblige them, this time with news instead of soaps.

In a given week on nightly network television, viewers can absorb up to nine different hour-long news magazines like "60 Minutes" or "20/20."

Add network and local news, round-the-clock coverage on cable and in-your-face sensationalism on shows like "Hard Copy" and "A Current Affair" and the information landscape stretches on and on.

With the enormous amount of news coverage available, Will Norton, dean of the college of journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said Christians who want to be informed must do so without wasting time on sensational or useless news programming.

Norton, who attends Lincoln's First Evangelical Free Church, said he watches little television news because it is riddled with what he calls "pseudo events."

"What they're doing is not real news," Norton said. "They're creating news."

He said he relies mostly on print journalism and watches only a few TV news shows. He said he regularly reads the Sunday edition of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, a local paper and USA Today. He said he also gets a lot of useful information from National Public Radio.

American Christians, Norton said, need to educate themselves about events affecting believers in other countries while making wise choices about how they stay informed and how much time they spend doing it.

Norton said those choices are different for everyone.

"We have such a short time on this earth," Norton said. "You have to decide how much of anything you're going to watch."

T.W. Hunt, a prayer specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board, said staying informed is important because it shows Christians for what and for whom they should pray.

"I think it is important to pray about national and international events," Hunt said. "We ought to pray for national and international leaders."

"The whole issue would be a problem of saturation," he said. "There ought to be a cutoff point for the Christian."

In the process of staying informed, Hunt said Christians must guard against becoming discouraged, which could dampen their praying zeal.

If the topic of quest is suitable or relevant, Hunt said he watches CNN's "Crossfire" or "Larry King Live." He said he watches about an hour of network and local news and avoids sensational programming altogether.

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"I choose my topics carefully," Hunt said.

Robyn Jones, a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and general manager of KQCV-AM, a Christian radio station that devotes 40 percent of its programming to public affairs, said she believes the secular media consistently distorts the news.

"It's all so, basically, biased," Jones said. However, she warned against retreating from secular news coverage.

Hal Wingo, an assistant manager editor at People magazine and member of Greenwich (Conn.) Baptist Church, said Christians who avoid secular news coverage might be diminishing their ability to influence their culture.

"I'm not sure about self-censoring because of a Christian's convictions, unless the programming is a continual affront to their faith," Wingo said.

Christians must be discerning about what they consume yet be able to react thoughtfully to public debate, he said.

"I guess my great fear is that Christians will be tuning out and turning off just because of a fear of being corrupted."

The Bible, Wingo said, gives no evidence that early believers shielded themselves to the point they were ignorant of their culture.

Added KQCV's Jones, "To have a Christian world view, you have to be aware of what's going on."

The apostle Paul and his contemporaries were aware of political and social concerns, Jones said. Paul was able to convincingly advocate Christ before the leading thinkers of his day, she said.

Despite her negative appraisal of the news media, Jones recommends Christians read at least one secular news magazine and also take advantage of public affairs programming on Christian radio.

Greeley Kyle, an investigative reporter with ABC television affiliate WMC in Memphis, Tenn., and a member of Bellevue Baptist Church, agreed with Jones that secular news coverage is biased, TV news particularly.

"The medium is much more openly and outwardly anti-Christian" than it used to be, Kyle said.

And TV is becoming increasingly sensational because of high viewer curiosity and shock value, Kyle said, and because in-depth, hard news programming tends to get dismal ratings. "They're going to do what sells," he said.

Christians need to make informed choices in deciding how they get their news, Kyle said.

He recommends finding out who the Christians are in one's local media and exercising caution otherwise.

"You can see who's honest and who's not," Kyle said. "Is it fair? Is it balanced? Are they Christian-bashing?"

Kyle said Christian radio might be one of the best news sources because it often gives depth to stories either ignored or barely reported on by non-Christian journalists.

In viewing violence and horror regularly on television, Kyle said Christians must not become callous or fearful.

"We know it's a bad world," Kyle said. "But we also know what we can do about it. Our God is awesome. He's there to protect us and sustain us. We're not powerless."

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Pierce is associate editor of the South Oklahoma City Leader and a member of Heritage Baptist Church.

**Baptist professors group
deplores Dilday firing**

DALLAS (BP)--A group of Baptist professors of religion, meeting in Dallas, approved a resolution deploring "the unprovoked and unjustified termination of President (Russell) Dilday."

Dilday was fired March 9 by trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, Southwest Region, unanimously approved the resolution, according to Larry McGraw, secretary-treasurer of the regional group which met March 17-18. McGraw is associate professor of Bible at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas.

The resolution cited Dilday's leadership as creating a "flourishing center of theological education of the highest quality of Baptists," and his firing "gravely imperils the future of theological education (at the seminary) and other Baptist institutions of higher learning."

Also, the resolution calls for the group and other Baptist leaders "within the Southwest Region to take reconciling and rectifying steps that will restore the integrity of theological education which SWBTS has embodied."

The resolution was sent to news media, Texas Baptist convention officials and SWBTS trustees.

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**Blackmun announces departure;
legacy is abortion decision**

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
4/11/94

WASHINGTON (BP)--Even in announcing his retirement, Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun did not escape the shadow of his most well-known opinion: The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

Appearing with President Bill Clinton at a White House retirement ceremony April 6, Blackmun, 85, was asked about and reaffirmed his majority opinion in Roe v. Wade.

"I think it was right in 1973, and I think it was right today," he said. "It's a step that had to be taken as we go down the road toward the full emancipation of women."

In his 24 years on the court, Blackmun has participated in hundreds of opinions. He has gained a reputation as a protector of individual liberties and a defender of the strict separation of church and state. In February, he wrote in a dissenting opinion he would no longer support the death penalty.

Yet, his name is identified primarily with only one decision. Such was the case upon the announcement of his retirement.

"As a judicial activist, Justice Blackmun could invent a constitutional right to kill unborn babies on demand, while also repudiating the death penalty for convicted murderers," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "It is regrettable that his career will be framed by such extreme views, protecting life for a hardened criminal but not the life of an innocent unborn baby."

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, said in a prepared statement, "Harry Blackmun has been a brilliant, courageous and compassionate Supreme Court justice -- as true a guardian of women's most fundamental freedoms as this nation has ever had. The landmark Roe v. Wade decision that Justice Blackmun crafted has saved countless women from the shame, degradation and humiliation of dangerous back-alley or self-induced abortion(s)."

National Right to Life Committee President Wanda Franz said in a written statement, "This is Justice Blackmun's deplorable legacy: Children who had their lives violently cut short because his decision stripped them of all legal protection."

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Roe v. Wade, which was decided by a 7-2 vote, struck down the laws on abortion of all 50 states. It established a trimester framework, in which the state could not regulate abortion at all during the first three months of pregnancy. In the second trimester, the state could regulate the practice to protect the mother's health. In the final three months, it could regulate or prohibit abortion, unless it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother.

A companion case, Doe v. Bolton, however, defined health as "all factors -- physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age -- relevant to the well-being of the patient." As a result, Roe and Doe combined to expand abortion rights to a multiplicity of reasons during all nine months of pregnancy. An estimated 30 million abortions have taken place since the decisions were released Jan. 22, 1973.

In his opinion, Blackmun said the right to abortion was included in the idea of personal liberty found in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Many legal scholars, including some supporters of abortion rights, have criticized the reasoning of Roe v. Wade.

Few Supreme Court decisions have proven as divisive as Roe. Despite the criticism, the opinion has survived for 21 years and was affirmed in the 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey decision.

While the focus in Blackmun's career remained on Roe, others did not comment directly on the decision when assessing his career.

"Justice Blackmun represents a voice of human compassion on a court recently dominated by corpse-cold legalism and narrow textualism," said Brent Walker, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, in a prepared statement. "As a staunch Methodist, Justice Blackmun obviously has taken seriously the biblical injunction to temper justice with mercy. He has not been blinded to the practical impact of judging on the litigants."

Since James Dunn became executive director of the BJCPA in 1980, the multid denominational religious liberty agency has said it does not address the abortion issue. The Southern Baptist Convention is a former member of the BJCPA.

On church-state issues, Walker said of Blackmun, "I cannot think of any cases where he has voted to deny a legitimate free-exercise claim or to water down the dictates of the establishment clause. His church-state record is unblemished.

"We shall miss him," Walker said.

People for the American Way President Arthur Kropp called Blackmun the "conscience of the Supreme Court."

"The nation deserves a new justice with his intellectual firepower and dedication to civil rights and liberties," Kropp said in a written statement.

During the 1992 election campaign, Clinton indicated his first appointee to the Supreme Court would be a supporter of Roe. He apparently kept his commitment with his 1993 selection of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to replace Byron White. During Blackmun's retirement ceremony, Clinton reaffirmed his agreement with Roe.

Among expected front-runners to replace Blackmun are Sen. George Mitchell, D.-Maine, and Bruce Babbitt, secretary of the Department of the Interior. Mitchell, the Senate majority leader, has announced he will not run for reelection this year.

President Richard Nixon appointed Blackmun to the high court in 1970. From 1959 until his appointment to the Supreme Court, Blackmun served on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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African Baptist leader pleads
for peace and prayer in crash

Baptist Press
4/11/94

WASHINGTON (BP)--The tragic deaths of the presidents of th Central African countries of Burundi and Rwanda in an April 6 plane crash has thrown their countries into yet more turmoil.

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The plane, returning from a peace meeting in Tanzania, went down while approaching the airport in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, reportedly after being hit by gunfire or a rocket. All ten aboard the plane were killed. Eleazar Ziherambere, the Baptist World Alliance's regional secretary, for Africa confirmed the shooting down of the plane in a late night phone call to the BWA's director of Baptist world aid, Paul Montacute.

"Our people do not know what will happen now," Ziherambere said, "please pray for us, the peoples of Burundi and Rwanda." In early March, Ziherambere had briefed the BWA on the tragic situation in both countries where conflict between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths and many more refugees and displaced persons.

Although the Tutsi only make up some 14 per cent of each country's population, they have traditionally dominated the army and the government.

Both presidents were Hutu. President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi, who was educated in a Baptist school and worshiped in a Baptist church, became president only in January after the October assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye and several members of his cabinet in a military coup. Reports indicate the coup led to the deaths of between 100,000 and 400,000 people.

Baptist World Aid has been supporting an initiative of Danish Baptists, who have been providing resources for a 15,000 person Burundian refugee camp in Rwanda. Funds also have been provided to support relief programs. BWAid currently is working with Ziherambere to airlift medical supplies to Kigali and provide other resources to enable the Baptist communities to feed and care for refugees and displaced persons.

In echoing Ziherambere's call for prayer, Montacute requested further financial support from the worldwide Baptist family for relief efforts in Burundi and Angola. Donations may be sent to Burundi/Rwanda Appeal, BWAid, 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Va. 22101, USA, or through Baptist Unions/Conventions.

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California's C.B. Hogue
sets 1995 retirement

By Mark A. Wyatt

Baptist Press
4/11/94

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--C.B. Hogue, executive director of California Southern Baptist Convention since 1985, announced April 7 he will retire next February at age 67 after completing 10 years in office.

"These years have been some of the most thrilling, most heartbreaking, most gratifying and most fulfilling we have known," Hogue told CSBC executive board members at the start of their regular meeting.

"By no means have we seen the fulfillment of our greater goals," Hogue said, but he voiced satisfaction that "we have seen the Lord greatly impact California Southern Baptist churches."

Less than 24 hours after the announcement, a nine-member committee which will recommend Hogue's successor held its first meeting. The committee consists of seven California executive board members plus the board's chairman and the state convention president.

Sam Williams, pastor of BayMarin Community Church in San Rafael, was elected chairman of the search committee. He said the panel's first tasks would be to draft a profile for the next executive director and develop a procedure for receiving and evaluating recommendations.

The announcement ends more than a year of speculation about when Hogue would retire. But recurring rumors of his retirement which began last summer apparently did not influence Hogue's decision to step down or the timing of his announcement.

"Frankly, I reached this conclusion because I believe the convention is ready to receive new, aggressive, innovative and visionary leadership to prepare for the 21st century," he said.

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Although it took many by surprise, Hogue's announcement was a familiar, "deja vu" experience for Doug Metzger, chairman of the California convention's executive board and pastor of Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church in Riverside.

"It's the second time this man has done this to me," Metzger said. He worked under Hogue at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board when Hogue resigned after nine years as evangelism vice president.

Metzger called Hogue "a powerful influence upon Christianity." He cited Hogue's service on the boards of directors of the Baptist World Alliance and Christianity Today as well as his relationship to various Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

"We have been blessed in California. It is with regret that we accept this retirement," Metzger said. "We're going to accept it as the will of God."

Hogue reportedly will be nominated next year for an unpaid, five-year term as a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance. He said he intends to devote "much effort and energy" leading BWA schools of evangelism after his retirement Feb. 28, 1995.

Hogue noted 1995 will mark 50 years since he decided as a teen-ager to commit his life to a full-time preaching ministry. He was pastor of churches in his native Texas and in Oklahoma, where he also served as state evangelism director before becoming HMB vice president.

Hogue was pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., when he was invited to become executive director of the California convention.

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Sanctions mean tough choices
for Baptists in troubled Haiti By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press
4/11/94

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--"Things change but nothing changes."

Haitians often use that proverb to describe life in their island nation.

"Haiti's whole history has been a constant changeover (of leaders for) almost 200 years. The government changes, but that doesn't necessarily change anything else," said Peggy Rutledge, a Southern Baptist missionary in Haiti, during a recent interview while in Richmond, Va.

"You still have the extremely well off and the extremely poor. If there's a change in government, that may adjust a little bit for individuals, but the whole structure itself doesn't change."

Mrs. Rutledge and her husband, Mark, have seen plenty of political changes in Haiti during seven years as agricultural missionaries in the western hemisphere's poorest country.

The latest turmoil surrounds ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, overthrown in a September 1991 coup by the Haitian military. Since then the United Nations and the Organization of American States have imposed economic sanctions to pressure the ruling military junta to restore Aristide to power. Despite sanctions, Haiti's military still controls the nation. Aristide, in exile in Venezuela, recently terminated an immigration agreement allowing the U.S. Coast Guard to repatriate Haitian boat people. His action was in response to reports of increasing human rights abuses against Aristide supporters in Haiti. Meanwhile, the Clinton administration continues to shift its Haitian policy while still supporting restoration of democracy in Haiti.

But one thing remains a constant in Haiti these days: the poor are getting poorer.

Last October the United Nations reinstated a fuel embargo that has pushed Haitian gasoline prices to nearly \$10 a gallon. Food prices have nearly doubled. It costs a Haitian at least a week's wages to buy a gallon of cooking oil.

"People are not sure what to expect; that's been one of the great problems," said Mark Rutledge. "They cannot live the same way they used to live and expect things to work out anymore."

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The Rutledges, from Glendale, Calif., and Murfreesboro, Tenn., respectively, planned to return to Haiti April 8 after a brief vacation in Florida and Virginia. They're the only Southern Baptist career missionaries now living in Haiti, although one International Service Corps couple and a journeyman continue to work there. New missionaries Jim and Grace Ziler, of Avilla and New Haven, Mo., respectively, are expected to arrive in July.

In Haiti's middle plateau area, the Rutledges operate an agricultural ministry providing veterinary assistance and helping farmers increase their yield.

In the countryside where the missionaries live, some Haitian farmers -- including Baptists -- now must choose whether to feed their children or send them to school. Since Haitians consider education a high priority, "most often parents will opt for (their children) to go to school even if they don't eat," said Mrs. Rutledge.

The Rutledges are urging rural Haitians to consider other options, like home schooling if they can't afford school tuition, books and uniforms. They also suggest farmers break their tradition of selling all their harvest and then buying food later as they need it. Families usually do that to pay for their children's education, according to the Rutledges.

"Kids don't learn well when they're malnourished," said Mrs. Rutledge. "We've been trying to encourage people that it's more important to eat."

They're also trying to help Haitians see "this is a time when you have to think a lot about how you use your resources," added her husband. "They can destroy themselves and their families if they make wrong decisions, because they may run out of food and other things."

Meanwhile, the Rutledges have to weigh even more carefully their own use of resources.

The embargo hasn't really affected their agricultural work, because they don't depend upon outside supplies. But they limit their travel because of high fuel prices. Mrs. Rutledge has quit traveling to places where she once led animal de-worming clinics. When he does travel, Rutledge tries to go by motorcycle, which takes less fuel. Journeyman Todd Lowe, of Central, S.C., who also works in the agricultural ministry, lives about an hour away by motorcycle from the Rutledges.

Despite the damage done by the embargo, "it's had a lot of positive effects for the kingdom of God," Rutledge said.

Late last year, for example, the Rutledges temporarily closed a Baptist well-drilling project because of soaring fuel costs and difficulty getting mechanical parts. Putting the project on hold meant laying off Haitian workers and shifting the assignment of Ed and Mary Brentham, International Service Corps volunteers from Belton, Texas.

Instead of drilling wells during the past few months, Brentham, 68, has been preaching in evangelistic campaigns in Baptist churches throughout Haiti. These were originally to have been led by Baptist evangelists from the United States -- a plan thwarted by unrest in Haiti.

Each week-long campaign has resulted in an average of 30 new Christians, according to Rutledge. One Baptist congregation recently saw 163 Haitians accept Christ as Savior during services led by Brentham. Church members got up daily at 4 a.m. to pray for the campaign.

Fuel for Brentham's travels costs plenty, but Baptists in Haiti consider his work a top priority.

"We're trying to make as many resources available as possible so the evangelistic work will continue no matter what," said Mrs. Rutledge.

"As people's hearts change, as they come to know the Lord, that's when we feel the country will start changing."

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

**Missouri vote turns back
riverboat casinos -- for now** By Laurie A. Lattimore

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--There are 1,261 reasons why Missourians defeated a riverboat gambling amendment April 5, and it was still only by the skin of their teeth. A margin of less than one-tenth of one percent fell in the favor of gambling opponents just 17 months after Missourians approved a statute allowing riverboat casinos.

"We knew it would be close, but we knew we had a chance," said Don Wideman, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention. Missouri Baptists were an outspoken opponent of the riverboat gambling measure -- an issue before Missouri voters for the second time in two years. "We were grateful for the second chance. I am very encouraged by the grass roots participation."

The second chance resulted from a state Supreme Court decision in January that said it was unconstitutional for the state to authorize games of chance. The ruling applied to most games planned for the riverboats, including slot machines that were to account for about three-fourths of the casino space and generate most of the revenue. Within two weeks of the ruling, lawmakers scrambled to get a constitutional amendment on the April 5 ballot.

Despite the vote, many riverboat operators are surging ahead -- planning to open floating casinos with blackjack and poker tables. Those games were considered games of skill by the state Supreme Court and therefore constitutional. Operating with the limited games, however, would curb profits.

Tom Irwin, executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission, estimated slot machines were to be the main revenue source for the boats, accounting for about 70 percent of the casino space.

More than \$3 million in a pro-gambling advertising campaign and overwhelming support in the legislature, however, were not enough to convince the million-plus voters floating casinos were an economic savior for the state. Of Missouri's 116 counties, including St. Louis and Kansas City, only 13 carried a "yes" vote.

Wideman referred to the Missouri Baptist campaign tactic as the "stealth bomber" approach -- no signal of an attack. He commended Missouri Baptists for leading a grass roots effort that no one person, denomination or organization can take sole credit for.

"This time it wasn't just us," Wideman said, referring to the November 1992 state referendum in which voters first considered bringing riverboat gambling to Missouri. In that election, 78 percent of Missouri's eligible voters overwhelmingly approved the idea. "I think people were saying, 'Our communities are not for sale.'"

Wideman acknowledged several factors were in Missouri Baptists' favor for the outcome, including an election that typically caters to the opposition vote because of the lower voter turnout. He also pointed to an emerging national awareness of the economic and social concerns related to legalized gambling.

Secular media attention, such as an expose in U.S. News & World Report, and various academic studies about the socioeconomic drawbacks created from gambling added timely credence to an issue traditionally considered a moral fight. Missouri Baptists and others in the religious community worked hard to focus the gambling debate more on the economic concerns rather than moral ones.

Gary Parker, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jefferson City, said this vote shows that when people are given good information, they make good choices.

"Up to this point, the lure of easy money got supporters," he said. "With the right information showing that there was an upside but also a downside, people came to see that the social costs were greater than the benefits.

"They had the money," he said, "and we had the people."

Wideman said disillusionment over the legislature's implementation of riverboat gambling and the constant banding of rules added to the state's skepticism of floating casinos.

"I keep thinking there ought to be a message here" for state legislatures, Wideman said. "But the fascination that gambling will provide income for the state is more than some can withstand."

The message would seem to be that the Show-Me state has seen all it wants of riverboat gambling interests. But gambling officials are pushing Missouri lawmakers to draft another gambling amendment in time for an August or November vote.

Speaker of the House Bob Griffin (D-Cameron) told reporters after the vote, however, he had no intention of another election but planned to consider the matter with gaming officials.

Senate President Pro Tem Jim Mathewson (D-Sedalia) concurred he wasn't sure he would be able to pass a riverboat amendment in the Senate.

Griffin's video lottery constitutional amendment proposed for the November ballot -- if it passes the legislature this session -- is a possible vehicle for another riverboat gambling measure. Rep. Karen McCarthy (D-Kansas City) also has introduced a bill that could be an avenue for the riverboat amendment.

Rep. Todd Akin (R-St. Louis), a gambling foe, said he was encouraged by the vote but not convinced the fight to keep gambling interests out of Missouri was over. Akin plans to propose a resolution that would keep an issue off the ballot for two years once it has been defeated in the polls.

"The House leadership has no shame," Akin commented. "If we don't get the vote we want, we put it back up six months later."

But like the state leadership, many lawmakers are wary of bringing the issue back for a third vote -- particularly in an election year.

Wideman is encouraging Missouri Baptists to continue pressure on their senators and representatives to keep the issue off the ballot.

One legislator, speaking to Associated Press on condition of anonymity, noted the pressure from constituents is strong incentive.

"This might be a highly unpopular thing to vote for, since my people back home slam-dunked Amendment 3," the lawmaker said.

Allen Garner, attorney for Jefferson City and member of First Baptist Church there, said the situation is still volatile as city and state leaders and gambling operators determine the legal and political impact of the vote.

Garner is sorting out legal questions for the city council to determine its legal bindings with the Becker Gaming Group -- a Las Vegas-based casino organization that has entered into a contract with Jefferson City to dock a riverboat.

Garner noted the political implications of the vote are just as great as the legal ones in terms of future action by cities and the state. If gambling had been decided by electoral vote, it would have been a landslide defeat of riverboats, he said.

"The issue hasn't become crystal clear, and I don't think we have seen the last from the legislature," Garner said.

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Texas, Alabama Baptists lead first
MasterLife conferences in Russia By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
4/11/94

DALLAS (BP)--Four Southern Baptists from Texas and Alabama recently helped lead the first MasterLife discipleship workshops in the former Soviet Union.

Carl Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church in Center, Texas, and his wife, Sally, were part of an international Baptist team assembled by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The volunteers trained about 80 pastors and denominational leaders from the Ukraine and Russia.

The Smiths -- joined by Clete Sipes, Baptist Student Union director at Auburn University, and his wife, Nelda -- and four Baptists from Great Britain led the workshops March 14-18 in Lugansk and March 24-26 in Moscow.

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The MasterLife discipleship curriculum was translated into Russian under the supervision of Bill Wagner, a Germany-based Foreign Mission Board representative for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

The Smiths were invited to participate in the workshops because of their church's ongoing ministry in Lugansk through the Texas Baptist Men missions organization.

About two years ago, the Center church bought a \$10,000 X-ray machine for a Lugansk hospital, and two volunteers from Center, Lee Roy and Willie Gendke, continue to work in the Ukraine.

The Moscow MasterLife workshop was held in conjunction with a church planting conference, and it attracted a cross-section of leaders from throughout the Russian Baptist union, Smith said.

"I know of eight people from Siberia who had to make a three-day trip by train to be there," he said.

Interpreters for the English-speaking Baptist conference leaders included Russian university students and instructors, several of whom were not Christians.

"When we started, one girl told me, 'I will interpret for you, but I will not do the exercises because I am not a believer,'" Smith recalled.

"By the end of the week, she told me, 'I have heard so much about prayers being answered. Now I believe God is real.'"

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Roswell church stands by
pastor in personal crisis

By Joyce Sweeney Martin

Baptist Press
4/11/94

ROSWELL, Ga. (BP)--Many times during the last nine years First Baptist Church of Roswell could have turned its back on their pastor and wife and said, "Enough."

Instead, over and over the church has opened its heart more widely to embrace Jerry and Jane Songer and to model what a caring church should be.

"It has not always been easy," admitted deacon Bo Buice and a member for 46 years. "But I believe we have come through this experience as better people."

The long journey began on the eve of the Songers' first anniversary at the church, when Jane was diagnosed with lymphoma.

"We never asked 'Why us?'," Jerry recalls. "Rather, we asked, 'Why here? Why now?'"

The Songers were well aware of how many churches, when confronted with the drain of time and energy attendant to chronic illness, have found reason to ask the pastor to resign. Understandably, given their brief time at Roswell First, they wondered if they, too, would be another statistic.

But Roswell First Baptist did not let that happen. "Our church has a long history of caring," said deacon Curt Moore.

First Baptist stood alongside the Songers then and again when the cancer reoccurred, this time in the abdomen, five years later. But the church's biggest test has come during the last 18 months.

In September 1992, the lymphoma returned. Jane spent 130 days of the next year in the hospital, fighting for her life. A bone marrow transplant at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville was unsuccessful. The doctors told her they could do nothing more and to "go home and get your house in order." The first cycle of an experimental treatment at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Md., did not work. Jane came home in a wheelchair; she didn't want to die there.

When there seemed to be no more hope, the Songers prayed God would send someone or something to help. At that point, Jane's doctors at NCI suggested EPOC treatments which could be administered at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta. Now, several months after those treatments began, Jane's doctors have said she shows "remarkable improvement."

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No one denies the effects of these last months, the roller coaster ride between hope and despair, the intense focus of time and energy on Jane's medical treatment.

Trying to be pastor of the 2,700-member congregation and husband to Jane hasn't been easy for Jerry. "Whichever place I was at a given moment, I thought I should be at the other."

Jane, too, has felt heavy pastoral responsibility. "We always had been the ministers, not the ones being ministered to. When Jerry was at my side, I worried that the church would think he was gone from them too much. I thought about all the people who needed his help."

And some church members have been frustrated as well. "There were times," admitted one church leader, "that people who were hurting felt Jerry was not ministering to them. Others thought he spent too much time talking about Jane and the cancer in his sermons and in the church newsletter."

But the church pulled through. They released Jerry to minister to Jane. Three times, First Baptist's personnel committee have given Jerry a unanimous vote of confidence. Once, the deacons gave their support in a 51-4 vote. Over and over, church members told Jerry not to visit them, but to take care of Jane instead. In the six weeks Jane was in Maryland, church members spontaneously offered Jerry 18 plane tickets to use for his weekly trips.

Church staff and laypersons covered Jerry's ministerial responsibilities. And, in what may be surprising to some, the church has grown during this time. Roswell First Church received 175 new members during the 1992-93 church year. Another upswing in growth has come in the last five months with the addition of 70 new members.

A leave of absence was offered to Jerry when Jane was in Maryland, but he declined. "I need you more than you need me," he said in a Sunday morning sermon during those weeks when he would preach on Sunday morning, then fly to Maryland Sunday afternoon to spend the week at the hospital with Jane, then return to Roswell on Saturday afternoon. "I had to come back to preach each week to get recharged," he said.

"Jerry was my link to the hope which FBC gave me," Jane said. More than one person has told Jerry that before Jane's illness, they never thought about their minister needing them. Now they know he does.

"Why here? Why now?" There is no doubt in Jerry's mind about the answer. "If God had given me a computer 10 years ago and asked me to design the perfect church for my last hurrah (before retirement), I could not have come up with a more perfect one than Roswell First Baptist Church.

Indeed, First Baptist has shown that a church can stand by God's man.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane has since returned to GBMC for another week of treatment, but is home now. Martin is the former editor of The New England Baptist, the newsjournal for the Baptist Convention of New England. Currently, she lives in Woodstock and is a member of North River Baptist Church in Roswell.

**B&H children's video
receives national awards**

**Baptist Press
4/11/94**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Broadman & Holman Publishers' "Secret Adventures" video series for children continues to receive national attention.

The first episode in the series -- "Spin: Truth, Tubas and George Washington" recently received an Angel Award from the Los Angeles, Calif.-based organization Excellence in Media.

The episode was honored with a Silver Angel in the home video category.

"Spin" also is a finalist in the 15th annual Telly Awards, given annually to recognize outstanding film and video productions, non-network television programming and cable television commercials.

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In addition, "Spin" continues to appear in best-seller charts in national magazines. The March 1994 issue of Bookstore Journal, for example, lists the episode as the fifth best-selling Christian video in the nation.

Part of the appeal of "Secret Adventures", according to producers George Tawel and Rob Loos, is it represents the only "mini-movie" series in the Christian video market which combines live action, cell animation and computerized special effects.

"Families are demanding products that can compete with prime time quality but with biblically-based stories," B&H marketing director Kirk Freeman said. "I believe we have delivered."

The second "Secret Adventures" episode -- "Snap: How to Act Like an Almost Adult" -- was released Feb. 15 and is climbing sales charts, Freeman said. The third episode in the series -- "Smash: How to Survive Junior High by Really Trying" will be released to consumers April 15. It was written by Emmy-award winning screenwriter Shelly Moore.

B&H announced future episodes of "Secret Adventures" will also be written by Moore, who has penned scripts for several prime time shows, recently completing an assignment for Steven Spielberg's NBC series "Seaquest."

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Mims to be BSSB interim director
of Bible teaching-reaching division

Baptist Press
4/11/94

NASHVILLE (BP)--Gene Mims, vice president for the Baptist Sunday School Board's church growth group, will serve as interim director of the board's Bible teaching-reaching division after Harry Piland leaves the post later this month to join the staff of First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Mims -- who also oversees the work of the discipleship and family development; church leadership, ministry and worship; and group support divisions -- informed Bible teaching-reaching division employees of the decision in an April 8 meeting.

"Harry Piland will be division director until April 30," Mims said, adding "we will begin a nationwide search for a new director only after the division leadership team has had time to assess our current needs and plan the future course and direction of our work."

While no timetable has been established for naming a new division director, Mims said a replacement for Piland is "unlikely before the fall."

Piland recently announced his decision to join the staff of First Baptist Church in Dallas as associate pastor and minister of education, beginning May 29. He said he began considering a return to a church staff position almost a year ago to reduce traveling and have more time with his family.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Open persecution coming in Russia, Christian warns," dated 4/6/94, please delete the 23rd paragraph and insert this corrected one:

Among six full-time workers at a Moscow office Perchatkin operates is Valery Sanderov, a former Catholic dissident exiled in labor camps for seven years. Gleb Yakunin, a human rights advocate and former Orthodox dissident elected to the Russian Parliament in December, is a consultant to the group. Yakunin also was formerly imprisoned and then exiled in a Siberian labor camp. Last fall the Russian Orthodox patriarch stripped him of his priesthood.

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