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Mississippi Baptists leaders  
find compromise over college

By Tim Nicholas

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

CLINTON, Miss. (BP)--Three weeks of negotiations have resolved a situation that had removed Mississippi College from its longstanding ties to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

An agreement was reached Oct. 13 that instituted a system of checks and balances designed to preserve the interests of the convention and the college trustees.

On Sept. 22, MC trustees changed the college's charter to prevent the Mississippi Baptist Convention from electing more than a fourth of the trustees. The change would have had the trustees electing two-thirds of their own board. This was done, said trustee chairman Harry Vickery, "to protect the college from ... denominational politics." Vickery also noted the board needed to be enlarged and to become more diverse.

The furor that erupted among convention leadership included threats of court action and withholding of the \$2 million in Cooperative Program monies the college gets yearly. A called Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive committee meeting the next day began efforts to reconcile the situation.

As a result of the efforts, this is apparently the first time any Baptist institution has returned to denominational hands after a charter change effecting a secession. Other Baptist schools separating themselves from their state conventions include Baylor, Furman and, recently, Samford.

The resolution, approved by the executive committee, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the convention's education commission and the MC trustees, requires agreement from both the trustee group and the convention's committee on nominations before a potential trustee's name goes before the Mississippi Baptist Convention for voting.

The trustee board still will be enlarged to 24 from the present 15. Up to a third will be in church-related vocations, and MC alumni living outside the state can be nominated.

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Basically, the plan returns the system to what has been called "a gentleman's agreement" as has existed in the past where institutional executives submitted requests for trustees with those requests honored by the Committee on Nominations.

The new plan was announced by Harry Vickery to faculty at MC Oct. 14. The previous evening the convention board, executive committee and education commission had approved it.

Although the written documents appear to allow MC to elect trustees following any impasse at the nominating committee level, Causey said the MC trustees agreed to allow the election of trustees to be a mutual responsibility. The agreement is that any openings following a convention will have joint approval between the trustees and the executive committee.

MC President Howell Todd, speaking to the MC faculty, called it "a refreshing new day, a new era of cooperation." Later, Todd offered his "utmost appreciation for the untiring efforts of Bill Causey, the Baptist leadership and Harry Vickery."

Others pointed to Causey as the linchpin for success of the negotiations. Jim Futral, convention board executive committee chairman, wrote in his church newsletter "... apart from the untiring efforts of Dr. Bill Causey, our executive director, and the ongoing openness of the Mississippi College trustees, no resolution would have ever been found."

Causey said, "The starting point of negotiations is that you're dealing with good people who have the larger view of the work of the Lord." Checks and balances, said Causey, "was the key to the negotiations."

Said one participant, "The divorce is off."

Rex Yancey, MBC president, said, "We got the best we could get and keep the school. If we had gone to court, it would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and would have alienated all the lay businessmen who have poured money into the school and which could have alienated others. We could have lost the case, too. Even if we would have won, we would have lost. If we withheld the \$2 million (in Cooperative Program funding), Mississippi College becomes an elite Baptist school that's going to drift left. They always do."

Causey, in a statement after the agreement, noted he was "thankful and relieved that, by applying the biblical principles of sound discussion, reason, and seeking God's guidance through prayer, we have worked through this very serious issue to conclude with a plan that is acceptable to the Mississippi College board of trustees and the leadership of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. ... This is truly a testimony to the untiring work of many to seek common ground ... I look forward to a new era of cooperation with the Mississippi College board of trustees that will sustain and nurture an old and revered denominational college to ensure it retains its solid spiritual base from which to deliver superb academic programs. I am aware that there are some who might fear that Mississippi College will drift from its spiritual base, but neither I nor the leadership of the Mississippi Baptist Convention believe that will happen. In fact, it is believed that this commitment is magnified in the new agreement."

P.J. Scott, MBC board president, said, "Christian people sat down and found the mind of Christ and did what they found to be his will. The people have prayed -- on both sides. They have prayed and have wanted to do right. I think we're stronger. I think we've worked through difficult situations and have come out together."

Futral said, "I am so pleased. My deep sadness has turned to gladness. Mississippi College and the Mississippi Baptist Convention have had a solid and mutually productive relationship too long to part ways. Mississippi Baptists need Mississippi College and the college needs Mississippi Baptists. This agreement may not be perfect, but it is a working document of mutual cooperation. It stands as a living testimony to Christian reconciliation. We are all indebted to Dr. Bill Causey for his unceasing efforts and to the Mississippi College trustees for their willingness to reconsider their decision."

**CLC urges NIH to reject  
funding of embryo research**

**By Tom Strode**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has asked the director of the National Institutes of Health to reject a report recommending federal funding of experimentation on early human embryos.

In an Oct. 17 letter, Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land and CLC biomedical consultant Ben Mitchell urged Harold Varmus and an advisory committee to the NIH director to halt plans to fund such research. The advisory committee will meet Dec. 1 and 2 to determine its recommendations to present to Varmus.

On Sept. 27, the 19-member Human Embryo Research Panel endorsed funding of research on embryos produced by in vitro fertilization or flushed from a woman prior to implantation in her uterus. It recommended research be limited to the first 14 days of the embryo's life but allowed for some potential exceptions. The panel said such early embryos do not have the "same moral status as infants and children."

In their letter, Land and Mitchell said, "That the majority of Southern Baptists would find the recommendation of the Panel offensive is a grace understatement. Creating human lives for the purpose of experimentation and, ultimately, destruction, causes us to recoil in horror."

Their opposition not only is based on the violation of the consciences of many Americans who would be forced to pay for such research, Land and Mitchell said, but also: 1) The conflict of interest by some panel members who are engaged in privately funded embryo research and 2) the lack of a person on the panel to argue eloquently for the protection of human embryos.

The CLC is encouraging Southern Baptists to express their concerns to NIH. Written comments may be sent to: Division of Science Policy Analysis and Development; National Institutes of Health; Building 1, Room 218; 9000 Rockville Pike; Bethesda, MD 20892.

Although the deadline for public comment is Nov. 1, a NIH spokesperson said letters will be accepted and presented to the advisory committee as much as possible after that date.

The CLC soon will be offering a pamphlet on the subject titled "Was Jesus an Embryo? The Ethics of Human Embryo Research and the Brave New World." It may be ordered from the CLC; 901 Commerce St., Suite 550; Nashville, TN 37203; (615) 244-2495.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Writer/photographer Tim Yarbrough of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission arrived in Haiti Oct. 16 with a Southern Baptist team now assessing ministry and relief needs in the island nation.

**Haitians welcome missionaries;  
assessment team gets to work**

**By Tim Yarbrough**

**Baptist Press  
10/18/94**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP)--Despite the hardships they have endured since they last saw their missionary friends, welcoming Haitians expressed concern about the family of Mark and Peggy Rutledge -- not their own -- when the Southern Baptist missionary couple returned to Haiti Oct. 13.

"Everyone has been happy to see us," said Mrs. Rutledge. "It's been like a family reunion. In Haitian culture it's customary to ask about anyone you know in a family ... and they have been doing that."

Since the Rutledges left in June due to deteriorating political conditions in the Caribbean nation, their Haitian friends and Baptist colleagues have been forced to endure practically every hardship imaginable.

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"They shared about losing jobs, the scarcity of goods and the high prices," said Mrs. Rutledge. "With the high price of fuel many couldn't afford (to travel) to work because it would cost more than their weekly wages. But there's a lot of optimism" now that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has returned to power.

The Rutledges are from Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Glendale, Calif., respectively. International Service Corps volunteers Ed and Mary Brentham, from Belton, Texas, and journeyman Todd Lowe, from Belton/Honea Path, S.C., accompanied the Rutledges to the country.

Since their return, the Rutledges have worked to re-establish ties with local Haitians and get their equipment operating. Their vehicles haven't operated since June and have had to be revived -- and so have ties to Haitian Baptists. And continued deterioration in the country means the Rutledges have to be concerned with much more than the agricultural center and livestock breeding program they run in the central plateau, where their home is located.

A Southern Baptist assessment team of representatives of the Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Florida Baptist Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas arrived in Haiti Oct. 16.

They're working with the Rutledges and other missionary personnel to plan how Southern Baptists can respond to immediate and long-term needs of the Haitian people. The Brotherhood Commission is seeking at least 150 volunteers to work in projects such as food distribution, water well repair, water purification, medical care and construction. Volunteers may begin working in Haiti by late October.

The 11-member assessment team arrived at the Port-au-Prince International Airport in the afternoon. The Rutledges, Lowe and Brentham met them at the airport, which is under heavy U.S. military guard.

The airport, completely surrounded by razor wire installed by the military, is a chaotic scene. Haitian men and children line the street outside, hoping to garner a few dollars for food from arriving visitors by offering to carry their luggage. Two children clung to a pickup truck driven by Brentham as the team left the airport.

At a mission house in the Haitian capital, Rutledge briefed the group on the current situation. The team was divided into three groups and assigned to procure food and determine the availability of warehouse space for food distribution.

"What we're trying to do is strike a balance between the ongoing work we have here and the work that needs to be done to meet immediate needs. That's the struggle now," Mrs. Rutledge said during the three-hour meeting.

"Channels aren't running smoothly," added her husband. "Security is a concern. Many of the warehouses have been depleted due to looting."

Much of the food being sold out of warehouses in Haiti was stolen from the relief organizations, Rutledge said. The U.S. military generally isn't providing protection in these areas except in extreme circumstances.

"Whole truckloads are being removed and (the thieves) aren't even taking time to change the bags" before selling the food, he said. But plenty of food is available for relief organizations with a plan to distribute it, he added.

The assessment team toured annex offices of the Baptist Convention of Haiti in Port-au-Prince Oct. 17. Well-drilling equipment is located at the offices, where Southern Baptist volunteers likely will be housed while doing relief work. The location will be a staging area where volunteers will be fed, equipment repaired and supplies stored and distributed.

Qualified Southern Baptists who want to volunteer for the Haiti relief projects may call the Brotherhood Commission at 1-800-280-1891 or (901) 722-3787. Financial contributions for the projects may be sent to the human needs department of the Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767 or to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

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(BP) photos will be mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press when they are received from Haiti.

Chicago Haitians celebrate  
change of power in homeland

By Jon Walker

CHICAGO (BP)--The day after Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned to power, liberty had a dual meaning at Gabaon Baptist Church, a Haitian congregation on the south side of Chicago. "Mercis" were lifted to "Papa" God for freedom in Haiti, but the dominant thanks on the church members' lips was for the liberty Christians enjoy in Christ.

"Some people party and drink to celebrate Haiti's freedom," said Marie Ulysse, music leader and wife of Gabaon's associate pastor. "We celebrate by singing and praying, giving thanks to God for the result. It is a joyous day."

The spiritual enthusiasm of the 35-40 church members could be sensed even by one unfamiliar with the Francophone dialect spoken throughout the worship service.

Accompanied only by a teen-ager playing a well-worn bass, the congregation boldly burst into a song about the name of Jesus: "All over the world, there is a name more precious than any other. What is the name? What is the name? Emmanuel!"

During a time of testimony within the small, storefront church, decorated with simple gift-wrap bows, one woman said Jesus had given them back Haiti, meaning some may soon be able to return home; yet, she quickly added, one day Jesus will unite all Haitian Christians in their true home called heaven.

Another woman, newly arrived from Haiti, sang a song emphasizing that one does not have to be the son of the president to be a somebody, rather, one of God's sons first, which makes him or her a somebody.

She continued: "You may got money; I don't got money, but I got Jesus in my heart, and when we die, the rich and the poor will be equal in God's eyes." Marie Ulysse said she was grateful to hear the song because it let them know what the people are singing in Haiti.

Gabaon's pastor, Josue Jeanty, stood to make announcements and said: "God bless Clinton, God bless the American people and God bless us. God has a plan for Haiti, and one day it will be a country for God. Clinton may have delivered the country, but it was God's hand at work.

"God shut off all the guns yesterday," Jeanty continued. "We've been praying but not for no reason. God has answered our prayers." Associate pastor Jean Ulysse, preaching from Matthew 24, which teaches a wise man does not assume a thief will come when he is expected, said people should anticipate the return of Christ the same way Haitians anticipated the return of Aristide.

"Jesus could come back before I finish preaching," said Ulysse, a bivocational minister who spoke until moments before he had to report to his job at a nearby plant. "God is coming. We must be ready. You never know when the time may come."

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Bass fisherman takes  
gospel to waterways

By Clay Renick

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

ATLANTA (BP)--God seemed to speak on a lake in Alabama. Terry Chupp was in a bass tournament. And the first prize was \$25,000.

Chupp caught six pounds of fish that morning. But he felt an urge to stop for a moment.

"Terry," God seemed to say. "There's your big one. I want that one in the boat."

Chupp was fishing with another contestant. And the pressure was intense. But he set his rod aside and faced the man.

"Joey, you're safe in this boat," Chupp said. "But there are a lot of stumps in this lake. We could hit one and die."

He paused. Rain had caused the lake to rise 11 feet in 36 hours. The water was cloudy.

"I know for certain where I'd be going, to heaven," Chupp continued. "How about you?"

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The man looked troubled. "I'd go to hell," he said.

Chupp then explained the gospel. And the man became a Christian. "I didn't win the tournament," Chupp recounted. And his partner didn't either.

"He won eternal life by accepting Jesus Christ," Chupp said. "There's no \$25,000 prize worth eternal life."

Professional bass fishing is a ministry, said the evangelist from Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, Ga. Chupp was a minister of music five years before becoming a Christian.

"I related salvation to my experience rather than a relationship," he recalled. "My priorities got all messed up."

Raised in Georgia, his father taught him how to fish.

"He would teach me by example," Chupp said.

They even made a small boat with marine plywood. The elder Chupp was a railroad carpenter and was gone much of the time. But days off found them in the woods with a shotgun or fishing pole.

Chupp worked for a bank after school and continued to fish as an interest. Later a television producer saw him on a lake and took some film. It led to a regular spot and the opportunity for tournaments.

"I still use some of the techniques my dad taught me as a boy," Chupp said. "The bass is basically a predator. They'll hit lures some out of meanness and to protect their territory."

A revival service got his attention several years ago.

"I had claimed him as my Savior," he said about Jesus, "but I didn't know what lordship was all about."

Chupp invited Christ to take control of his life. And he found opportunities to witness at bass tournaments.

That led to revival services and a chaplain's ministry with the professionals. Ranger boats and several outdoor companies sponsor him. In the last year he's seen 190 men become Christians.

"He's been a real inspiration to me," said Charlie Reed from Broken Arrow, Okla. "He's probably one of the most gifted people I've seen in leading people to Jesus."

Chupp also competes on the circuit. And that can be stressful with the travel and long hours.

"Professional fishing is probably as technological as any sport," Chupp said. "We literally stand on one leg all day long, with the other one on the trolling motor."

"It's not like fishing out of a barrel."

The contestants have to drive to the sites with their boats on a trailer. Then they practice several days and compete from sun-up till 3 p.m.

"We don't eat. We don't drink," said Chupp. "Our job is to catch fish."

One of the fishermen called Chupp at home with some problems. He wanted to know why bad things happen to good people. Business deals had soured for the man and injuries affected his fishing.

Chupp didn't know the man had a gun in one hand. Chupp just explained the hope that can be found in Jesus. And the caller became a Christian.

Later the same man told Chupp how he was about to end his life. Now he's back on the professional tour.

"Happiness comes from a personal relationship with Christ," Chupp said.

"Fishing is just like sharing the gospel ... no cast, no catch."

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Volunteers, materials still needed  
to help rebuild after Georgia flood By James Dotson

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

ALBANY, Ga. (BP)--The national guard has gone, as has the Red Cross, the Southern Baptist disaster relief feeding units and the television satellite vans, broadcasting the story of the worst flood in Georgia's history to the world.

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But the long-term effects of the flood remain.

In many neighborhoods, travel trailers and mobile homes parked next to houses are as much a fixture of the landscape as driveways and hedges. The exteriors of the homes often belie their condition -- most are either gutted and drying out or in various states of reconstruction. And for displaced families, the stresses of living in temporary housing are taking their toll.

That is the scene in Albany, where 1,600 homes were damaged by the "Great Flood of 1994" in early July, as well as the small town of Newton just to the south and other scattered areas in southwest and central Georgia. The recovery effort is now focused on the rebuilding stage, which is expected to continue through next summer. Hundreds of volunteers came down in the initial weeks to do the cleanup of homes, ripping out sheetrock and flooring often to the framing. The longer-term needs are with the reconstruction, a slow process requiring skilled labor and expensive materials. Most of the residents did not have flood insurance, so they are even more dependent on the assistance of volunteers.

In Albany, the command center for the rebuilding effort for the entire city is at Sherwood Baptist Church, where volunteers man a bank of phones every day fielding calls from prospective volunteers from across the country as well as those needing assistance. To date, more than 3,000 volunteers of all faiths have been assigned to projects, housed and fed by Sherwood.

"We've gotten a lot more organized as the weeks have gone by," said Lee McMichael, media director for the church and one of the coordinators of the flood relief center. "In the beginning, we didn't know what we were doing."

In the command center are piles of forms, each with different requests for assistance. One of the largest is for pressure washing, for example. Many such requests can wait, particularly those for exterior cleaning, McMichael said. But those still dealing with mud and contaminated flood waters indoors get priority.

A large chart on a chalkboard tracks where teams are working and what they are doing.

Some of the crews come well-equipped to complete an entire house without assistance, while others offer only their labor. Often the teams are mixed groups. In one home, a young man from Kansas who had been volunteering in Albany for more than a month worked in the same home as a retired United Methodist couple from Pennsylvania. They were on their way down to Orlando for a vacation, and decided to spend a week helping flood victims.

In Newton, a similar organizational effort takes place at Newton Baptist Church, which was spared flood damage by mere inches. Pastor Larry Odom said more than 1,300 volunteers have been coordinated through the church. Rebuilding efforts are now in full swing.

The churches affected by the flood also are picking up the pieces, despite a lack of help from insurance. Most had no insurance because they were never expected to need it. Among those affected were Whitewater Baptist Church near Oglethorpe, and Calvary, Lakeside, Radium Springs and Southside Baptist churches in Albany.

Ray Newman, director of the Georgia Baptist Convention Brotherhood department and communications coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief in the flood area, said their efforts have shifted to cooperation with other groups in meeting remaining needs. Funds contributed through the GBC are still being distributed as needed throughout the flood areas. They are cooperating with Sherwood and Newton churches in referring volunteers, and they are a part of an Interfaith Association in Albany that has opened a warehouse for donated building materials.

"We were not out there just to assist Baptists," Newman said. "It's a human need, and we want to meet the needs of the people."

Newman noted the tendency in this disaster, as with others, has been for the offers of help to slack off significantly after the initial media barrage.

"Once that media attention dies down people don't volunteer as regularly," he said. "And we probably need as many volunteers now as we ever did. ... We are desperate for volunteers."

McMichael, faced with stacks of requests and dwindling construction teams and materials, agreed.

"They've been tremendous in coming to help," McMichael said of the volunteers. "It's just that we need them to keep coming."

Beyond volunteers, needs continue to exist in flood-stricken areas of Georgia for donations of building materials, especially sheetrock, plywood and related items.

For more information, call:

-- Georgia Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department, (404) 936-5256.

-- Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, (912) 883-1910.

-- Newton Baptist Church, (912) 734-5836.

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Lebanese family finds  
Christ through flood

By James Dotson

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

ALBANY, Ga. (BP)--It was about three weeks after the "Great Flood of 1994," and Ghunaym Ghunaym and his wife, Salwa, were sitting in their carport. Their relatively new brick home, like most others in the Albany, Ga., neighborhood, had been extensively damaged by the flood. And with no flood insurance and no means of paying for the improvements, they had reached the breaking point.

"I started crying. I didn't know what to do," said Ghunaym, a native Palestinian who spent most of his life in Lebanon. "All of a sudden about 10 or 20 people from the church came to our house and started working. And my tears of sadness turned to tears of joy."

It was a group of teen-agers from Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, making the rounds of the neighborhood helping as many people as they could.

"All of them came, and in two or three hours everything was finished," said Ghunaym. "When I look into the eyes of them I saw Jesus Christ in their eyes. I can't tell you how happy I was."

That initial act of kindness was only the beginning of a relationship between the Ghunayms and Sherwood Baptist that would change their lives forever.

Sherwood continued to help the family by sending volunteers their way, some of whom also provided materials to get the rebuilding started. But they also spent some time talking with them about the reason they were there to help.

Within a few weeks, Mrs. Ghunaym and her son had accepted Christ as Savior.

As for her husband, the flood proved to be the event that forced him to consider once again an issue he had struggled with all his life. A lifelong Muslim, he was born in Nazareth in what was then Palestine. He attended a Christian school, however, excelling in the study of the Bible while not placing his faith in its message.

His career brought him to the United States for his graduate studies in the 1980s and he is now a mathematics professor at Albany State College.

After the flood, he was confronted once again by the gospel. "I started to find that these beliefs are needed in my life," he said. This time he answered God's call. After talking with Jeff Toole, counseling coordinator at Sherwood, after church one Wednesday night, he professed faith in Christ and asked to be baptized.

"God is in my heart," he said later. "And all my life I was seeking peace." He said he told the people at Sherwood, "Here is my dirty life ... and they accepted me," as God already had. Referring to his birthplace in Nazareth, he said, "I started with Jesus and I ended with Jesus."

The family is still dealing with the disaster that has turned their lives upside down. But Ghunaym believes that at least in his life there was a reason for it.

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"This flood. The earthquakes. These natural phenomena. They occurred not by chance," he said "... When we are plagued by trouble with sin, there is a heavenly power that says 'wake up'. ... God n ver means to hurt us at all, but what he does want to do is discipline us."

Along with thanks to God, he also credits the church members who not only took the time to help with physical needs but offered spiritual guidance as well. "When we found problems were suffocating us, we went to these people, and they made our burden light," he said of members of Sherwood. "And it's not just the people; it's Jesus."

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**Baptist disaster relief volunteers  
respond to southeast Texas floods** By Ken Camp

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

DALLAS (BP)--Texas Baptist disaster relief volunteers from around the state gathered Oct. 18 in flooded southeast Texas where Gov. Ann Richards declared 16 counties disaster areas.

Floods in the region have claimed at least seven lives and forced thousands of families from their homes.

A half-dozen volunteers left Dallas aboard the Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Mobile Unit -- an 18-wheel, tractor-trailer rig with a field kitchen -- and the Command Post -- an RV equipped with HAM radios, fax machines, cellular phones, computers and other equipment to coordinate communication from remote disaster sites.

Other volunteers are staffing smaller regional disaster relief units from Fort Worth, Tyler and Beaumont, Texas.

The Dallas, Fort Worth and Tyler teams were to meet at First Baptist Church, Conroe, Texas. From the church, one of several congregations serving as an emergency shelter for families whose homes have been flooded, the volunteers would be dispatched to areas of greatest need to provide emergency food services.

Volunteers can prepare up to 35,000 meals per day at a disaster site working from the large mobile unit's field kitchen.

Beaumont-area volunteers are remaining in the Golden Triangle to meet needs from the eastern side of the rain-soaked region.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas works cooperatively with other private organizations through Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAID) which includes the Red Cross, Salvation Army and a number of other church groups.

Texas Baptist Men, a BGCT lay missions organization, maintains a list of about 600 trained volunteers around the state who can be called to respond when disasters strike.

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**Counselor says eating disorders  
affect 25-40% of college women** By Brenda J. Sanders

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--Eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia and compulsive overeating are an increasingly recognized hazard on college campuses -- including Baptist college campuses -- professional counselor Ann Gabrick believes.

Addressing 400 students at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., during an evening program, Gabrick said, "My guess would be that somewhere between 25-40 percent of the female students on this campus have some kind of eating disorder."

Gabrick, manager of the eating disorders program at Baptist Medical Center in Kansas City, was invited to speak with students about the topic after she appeared on a segment of television's "Good Morning America." An expert on disordered eating patterns, Gabrick had been interviewed on a program that highlighted the tragic story of world-class gymnast Christy Henrich, from Independence, Mo., who died July 26 at age 22 after battling eating disorders for several years.

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Eleanor Terry, senior associate dean of students at William Jewell, invited Gabrick to the campus because, she said, "This is a significant health issue, especially for young women. There is a high interest in this topic among our students."

Following Gabrick's talk, participants were invited to share feedback on the issue with their peers in small-group sessions in the campus' sorority houses.

"One of the main reasons I began working with people with eating disorders was that I worked on a college campus with what I thought were the best and the brightest students," Gabrick recounted. "They were absolutely the most intelligent, the most fun, the best looking, the 'best of the best.' But they never felt like they were the best of the best; they never felt like they could be good enough.

"I think that's why we tend to see such a high incidence at Jewell," she continued, "because we've got a high concentration of the best of the best."

Gabrick, who has counseled with a number of William Jewell students suffering from eating disorders, said, "What happens here is, you've got the competition, you've got the student body that's going to be prone to this drive for perfectionism, and you never feel like you can do enough. You feel a sense of isolation and emptiness, or you feel that you don't fit in, and one of the ways that you begin to control that is that you begin to be obsessed about your weight. You think, 'If I just can be thin enough and look good enough, then maybe my boyfriend wouldn't break up with me, then maybe I'd have friends, then everything would be fine.'

"But those of you who have an eating disorder know that's not what happens," the counselor told the audience.

What is the key difference between a person who is occasionally worried about her weight and a person who has an eating disorder? An individual with an eating disorder is obsessed, Gabrick said. "An obsession is something that this person is going to talk about, think about and act on all the time. An obsession takes control of your life."

She asked, "How much of the day do you spend thinking about what you weigh, when you've exercised, when can you get hold of the laxatives, when can you avoid eating, how can you fool your roommate? If that's all you're thinking about, that's an obsession and that's an eating disorder."

Gabrick warned a common misconception is that all people with eating disorders are skeletal in appearance.

"I have seen over 15,000 cases in the past 10 years," she noted, "and among those, I have seen less than a handful who look as severe as Christi Henrich (whose weight plunged to 63 pounds the summer before her death). Very few anorexics get below 100 pounds."

She continued, "Eating disorders don't have anything to do with how someone looks. Certainly an anorexic may begin to lose weight and may begin to look very thin . . . . However, it's unfortunate that when we think of anorexia and bulimia, we picture the 70-pound anorexic, or the bulimic that throws up 20 times a day, or the 400-pound overeater, when in fact, probably 99 percent of the people who have these problems look like all of you."

Approximately 5-6 percent of people who have eating disorders have anorexia nervosa, Gabrick estimated. The disorder is expressed through an obsessive starvation when an individual consumes an insufficient number of calories per day to maintain good health. Anorexia nervosa may lead to a pronounced weight loss and distortion of a normal life cycle, Gabrick said. The disorder is characterized by a weight phobia -- a morbid fear of becoming fat.

The vast majority of people who have an eating disorder are bulimic or bulimic-anorexic (a combination of anorexia nervosa and bulimia), the counselor said. Bulimia is characterized by the intake of what the individual perceives to be excessive quantities of food, which is then compensated for by "purging."

Bulimics purge their food by vomiting or using laxatives, enemas or diuretics, Gabrick said. "Mini-thins" -- a form of amphetamine -- have become an increasingly popular purging drug on college campuses, she added.

A third disorder, compulsive overeating, is probably the most misunderstood illness of its type, because, Gabrick said, "For some reason, our society thinks it's OK to make fun of people who are overweight."

Compulsive overeating may be characterized by recurrent episodes of binge eating to cope with anxiety, loneliness or depression; a sense of lack of control during binge episodes; obsession with eating; persistent remorse and feelings of hopelessness over loss of ordinary willpower.

Gabrick warned people who suffer from eating disorders over a period of years and do not seek professional therapy to control their compulsions may experience severe physiological and psychological problems, and they run the risk of an early death.

"If you have a friend (with an eating disorder) who says, 'I can fix this problem on my own,' keep in mind -- nobody ever recovers from an eating disorder on their own," Gabrick said. "These are chronic, progressive diseases. It's very difficult to treat an eating disorder and takes a long time to recover."

She encouraged the audience to talk with friends they suspect have eating disorders. "If you are concerned about someone, be supportive and try to lead this person to get professional help. Don't be critical of them and don't keep their problem a secret.

"If your friends won't talk to you about their problem, try writing them a letter and sharing your concerns that way," she suggested. "Or talk with their parents or call on your college counselors."

She concluded, "People can get better, but they have to be willing to get help. You can't beat an eating disorder alone."

Eating disorders occur among children as young as 7 years of age and, although they affect some men, these conditions generally are far more common among women. Here are some early signs to watch for:

- Obsession with food, weight or body image.
- Increased social isolation.
- Mood swings from extreme highs to suicidal depression.
- Increased physical exercise (up to several hours a day).
- Frequent excuses for not eating with family or friends.
- Difficulty sleeping.
- Pride in ability not to eat.
- Preoccupation with planning meals for others.
- Lack of self-esteem.

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Injured volunteer responding  
after three months in coma

By Mary E. Speidel

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Southern Baptist volunteer Paul Sutherland, critically injured during a July mission trip to Argentina, is showing some response after nearly three months in a coma.

Physicians haven't officially said Sutherland has emerged from the coma, but "you can tell he's in there -- it's not just a blank stare," said Vivien Hagler, Sutherland's daughter, in a phone interview from her father's room at a rehabilitation center.

"Sometimes he responds. And up until the last few weeks we hadn't seen anything like that. He was just lying there with his eyes closed."

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Sutherland, from Sanford, N.C., suffered a brain contusion after falling from a ladder July 21 while working as a Foreign Mission Board volunteer in Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital. He underwent two surgeries in less than 24 hours there before being flown Aug. 6 to Durham, N.C. Sutherland, 66, received treatment for several weeks at Duke University Medical Center in Durham. Later he was transferred to a rehabilitation center in Raleigh, N.C.

Sutherland can't talk because he's breathing with the aid of a tracheotomy. "But he's moved his lips like he was wanting to talk," said Hagler. "He opens his eyes a whole lot more. He focuses and tries to track. He's following some commands. He's in good shape considering (doctors) thought he wouldn't even survive."

He still must be fed through a feeding tube in his stomach. But physicians have stopped treating Sutherland as a coma patient. Now they treat him as a head injury survivor. He receives physical and speech therapy regularly.

"They are trying to teach him things like how to hold the washcloth and wash his face ... the basics," said his daughter, a nurse.

A member of Sanford's Cool Springs Baptist Church, Sutherland has gone on many mission trips in the United States and overseas. He was painting the library at Buenos Aires' International Baptist Theological Seminary when he fell and was injured.

"There are people from all across the country who have been praying for him," said Hagler's husband, Randy. "I'm sure that's had a lot to do with his recovery to date. We certainly appreciate it."

Sutherland's wife, Julie, visits her husband daily -- a 40-mile trip from the couple's home in Sanford. Hagler comes from her home in Charlotte, N.C., as often as she can.

"We need a lot of patience," Hagler admitted. "It's just going to be a long, hard, slow process."

To help Sutherland's family with medical expenses, North Carolina Baptist Men have established the "Paul Sutherland Medical Fund." Contributions may be sent to: North Carolina Baptist Men, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512. Checks should be designated for the "Paul Sutherland Medical Fund."

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Students, alumni talk, pray  
via Southwestern's 'PrayerLink'

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Thirty-eight students and two spouses at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary recently participated in "PrayerLink '94," a three-night telephone campaign initiated by President Ken Hemphill to thank Southwestern alumni and their churches nationwide for prayer support of the seminary's recent revival services.

"We have scriptural admonition to express gratitude to people for their prayers and to ask them to continue praying for us," Hemphill said. "If we don't express gratitude and don't share the results of people's prayers, we complete only half of the task of prayer."

A total of 1,039 telephone calls were made by the student volunteers. Of those attempts, 402 personal contacts were made and the seminary's appreciation was expressed in answering machine messages 313 times. The other calls either received no answer or were to wrong numbers.

Each time a personal contact was made, the caller asked for prayer requests regarding the alumnus' church. Those requests were shared during a special prayer time in Southwestern's chapel service Oct. 14. Students who volunteered for the telephone campaign were recognized also.

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PrayerLink gave students many positive opportunities to minister to alumni and their churches, according to Rodney Geno, director of development records and research at Southwestern. One volunteer spoke with a pastor who has had two sons commit suicide and two other family members die since January. Another student counseled a pastor's wife who was in tears over church conflict concerning a building program.

After each night's calling session, a time of sharing was held and "it was wonderful to see the element of excitement among the students," Geno recounted. "Ideally, it would be great for PrayerLink to be an annual or even an ongoing event so that our students continue to interact with alumni and so that our alumni continue to be informed as much as possible about campus happenings."

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Mark Kelly to join  
FMB as staff writer

Baptist Press  
10/18/94

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Mark Kelly, former managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist, will join the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Nov. 1 as a staff writer in the news and information office, the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Kelly, 39, has been managing editor for the past year of The Herald-Leader, a semiweekly newspaper in Siloam Springs, Ark.

He worked for the Arkansas state Baptist newspaper from 1983-91 before leaving to found Kainos Press, a feature syndicate serving the Christian newspaper market. In 1992-93 he also worked part time as a copy editor of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in Little Rock.

In Richmond, Kelly will fill the position left by Don Martin, recently named an overseas correspondent covering World A, where most people have had little or no opportunity to hear the gospel message.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Kelly received the master of journalism degree from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. He also attended the University of Chicago Divinity School and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. At Southern he was editor of The Towers, the seminary newspaper.

Kelly was born in Rolla, Mo., but grew up in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. His father, Gerald, is administrator of the Ada Baptist retirement village, a ministry of Oklahoma Baptists.

Kelly and his wife, Cheryl, have two children, Megan Aileen, 11, and Graham Sh lton, 7.

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NEWS ADVISORY: A (BP) story on the enrollment statistics of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries will be available the week of Oct. 31. Debbie Moore, public relations director at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will be the writer; she is to receive final fall enrollment statistics from the seminaries Oct. 31.

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