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NEWS ADVISORY: Baptist Press anticipates running another update on the status of Southern Baptist missionaries and their relief efforts in the Kobe, Japan, earthquake zone on Monday. A map-graphic of the area will be mailed and posted on SBCNet News Room Friday afternoon by the Richmond bureau of Baptist Press. Mugshots of missionaries in the area (see list attached to Thursday's story for names and hometown/state connections) are available upon request from the foreign bureau, which hopes to obtain photos of mission relief efforts on the quake scene in the coming days.

Contributions for Japan earthquake relief efforts can be sent to the Foreign Mission Board human needs office at P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230, or call toll-free 1-800-866-FMB1.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

Baptist disaster relief workers
minister to Calif. flood victims

By Mark A. Wyatt & Joseph Lugo

Baptist Press
1/19/95

GUERNEVILLE, Calif. (BP)--Long after the rain ended, floodwater receded and sunny skies returned to northern California, Southern Baptist disaster relief workers continued ministering to victims of the state's most destructive flooding in a decade.

Southern Baptist volunteers were among the first to bring aid to flood-stricken inhabitants of communities along the Russian River in northern California. Baptist volunteers arrived early Jan. 9 to help comfort and feed flood victims as unprecedented rainfall continued statewide.

In hardest-hit northern California, torrents sent streams and rivers out of their banks and raging through towns like Guerneville, Santa Rosa and Monte Rio north of San Francisco Bay.

High winds and heavy rains also battered southern California, flooding several communities and closing freeways and surface streets. Mountain passes north of Los Angeles were closed for a time as snowfall clogged highways at higher elevations.

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Leading Southern Baptists' initial relief effort in northern California were Sam Birky, director of missions for Redwood Empire Southern Baptist Association, and Don Hargis, California Southern Baptist Convention men's ministries director.

Hargis got a call Jan. 8 from an American Red Cross official asking for help feeding and sheltering flood victims. Within hours, one of the California Baptist convention's disaster relief units was en route to the flood area.

"We scrambled and drove all night and none of us slept until after 1 p.m. the next day," Hargis recounted. By then the feeding station was up and running in Santa Rosa. Hargis and other workers slept in shifts so the feeding station would remain staffed at all times. For nearly two weeks, Hargis and other Baptist relief workers had little relief.

Birky, a member of Castlewood Baptist Church, Vallejo, and Brad Smalley, a volunteer from First Baptist Church, Benicia, drove to Guerneville to see how they could help. After meeting with fire department and Red Cross officials, they established Southern Baptists as the food service providers for the Red Cross emergency relief effort.

Birky, while overseeing the distribution of food at the Guerneville site, said Baptists have coordinated all sorts of disaster relief efforts just because they have established a presence at the feeding site.

"We're here in the middle of a disaster just trying to make some sense of it," Birky said. "As much as anything, we're here to answer questions, provide a warm body to talk to and share the love of the Lord with them."

In time, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Red Cross were expected to arrive and set up a center in Guerneville. Until then, Birky said, Baptists were committed to provide food services and help out in any way they can.

Birky said one reason Baptists were able to take charge of feeding people in the Guerneville area is they already had established a presence in the community by providing Thanksgiving dinners and summer missionaries in prior years.

"We're not strangers here," Birky said, explaining the contact Baptists have maintained with the local people through the years always has been one of providing different ministries.

Rob Thommarson, pastor of West County Community Church, Sebastopol, agreed. Thommarson said when he went to the Red Cross and introduced himself as a Southern Baptist minister who was there to help in any way he could, someone started clapping across the hall and then shouted, "Hurray! The Southern Baptists are here!"

"I was really proud of the regard in which we're held and I've seen that it's well-deserved," said Thommarson, who has been coordinating volunteers who serve meals at the Santa Rosa center. "The volunteers work so well in the midst of chaos that they bring glory to Christ and serve as witnesses to the people they are serving."

Several volunteers, including some from Oregon, worked eight straight days without time off. Typically, their days began at 4 a.m. when they would rise to begin preparing breakfast and continued until 9 p.m. after the evening meal was finished.

At night some of the volunteers stayed in recreational vehicles they brought with them. Others were housed in Santa Rosa motels by the Red Cross.

In addition to the feeding stations, Hargis said two shelters remained open Jan. 18, more than a week after floodwater receded. Each shelter housed about 150 people.

"They either have totally lost their homes or they didn't have homes in the first place," Hargis said. "We don't know how many are true flood victims or how many are homeless, but we don't question that, anyway."

Reuben Savala of Cloverdale said all the people in the shelter are very appreciative of those who are helping them. He said the Southern Baptists have been working day and night preparing meals, with a different church coming in every day to help.

The volunteers' work has not gone unnoticed by those they are serving. Jan Garfield, a physical therapist whose downtown Guerneville home/office was flooded, called the volunteers at the center "the most hospitable team that I ever met."

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Lugo is a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Disaster response familiar drill
to experienced Calif. volunteers** By Mark A. Wyatt

Baptist Press
1/19/95

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--For California Southern Baptist disaster relief workers, the emergency response to this year's devastating winter floods was a familiar drill.

In recent years Baptist volunteers have pitched in to help countless victims of California earthquakes, floods, wildfires and riots. In the process, Southern Baptists have earned the respect of state and national disaster response agencies and the enduring gratitude of those they have helped.

For instance, after the Jan. 17, 1994, Northridge earthquake Southern Baptists were assigned primary responsibility for emergency food service in the hard-hit San Fernando Valley area. In the weeks following the earthquake, Baptist disaster relief crews helped prepare and serve more than 1 million meals to quake victims and emergency workers.

Exactly one year later some of the same volunteers were at work again, this time ministering to flood victims in Santa Rosa, Guerneville and neighboring communities inundated by the raging Russian River and other storm-swollen streams.

Don Hargis of the California Southern Baptist Convention staff coordinated Baptists' disaster response in northern California with strong support from the Redwood Empire Southern Baptist Association. While Hargis directed the overall effort from Santa Rosa, Sam Birky, Redwood Empire's director of missions, took charge of a feeding station in Guerneville, scene of some of the worst flooding.

Scores of Baptist volunteers and others helped in several locations.

Hargis kept a steady supply of food coming in from the Red Cross mass feeding program. Southern Baptist volunteers prepared the food and served meals at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Santa Rosa, Red Cross headquarters for the disaster relief effort. Workers also delivered meals to other feeding sites in Santa Rosa, Guerneville and Monte Rio, Hargis said.

"Red Cross emergency response vehicles (ERVs) would go out to deliver several hundred meals to feeding centers, then on the way back they'd locate pockets of residents cleaning up their homes and businesses," Hargis explained. Some had survived for days by cooking on grills in their back yards. Many had had no electricity or clean tap water for days.

"When they found out about the Southern Baptist feeding stations, they'd tell the ERV drivers about other people who needed help," Hargis said. "Drivers often would find from 150-200 people in the area who just wanted to eat."

Besides hot meals, Baptist volunteers distributed drinking water and thousands of sterile water bags. Each of the two-gallon bags was labeled, "A cup of water in Jesus' name, provided by Southern Baptists."

The feeding crews are expected to continue work through Jan. 23, before shutting down after two weeks of non-stop service in the stricken area. Hargis said crews were "beefing up" for what he predicted would be the highest demand yet as weekend volunteers pour into the area to help with the clean-up.

During their first 10 days on the scene, Baptists had served 26,000 meals to residents affected by the flood and workers helping them overcome the havoc it caused.

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After the feeding crews pull out, however, Southern Baptists likely will continue to have a presence in the community. Hargis said Redwood Empire association leaders hope this winter's disaster relief efforts combined with ongoing ministries such as summer missions and holiday meals programs will help pave the way for a Southern Baptist church to be started in Guerneville.

"They've been trying to find a way to get into that area," Hargis said. It may be easier now that residents "are so thankful for what Southern Baptists are doing there," he said.

As often happens, Hargis noted, it took a disaster to open the door for a lasting ministry in the area. But in spite of that irony, he added, "This is the best thing that's happened in a long time."

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Joseph Lugo contributed to this story.

**Vols needed in California
for post-flood clean-up**

**Baptist Press
1/19/95**

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (BP)--The flooding has ended but the clean-up is far from over in northern California, a Southern Baptist disaster relief official said.

Volunteer crews are needed to help victims of the northern California flood, according to Don Hargis, men's ministries director and disaster relief coordinator for California Southern Baptist Convention.

"It could take a month or longer to finish the clean-up, depending on how many volunteer crews we get," Hargis said.

People interested in volunteering for flood clean-up work should call Hargis' office at (209) 229-9533.

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EDITORS' NOTE: This is the eighth article in "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995" series. The Historical Commission, SBC, will release one article each month from June 1994 to May 1995.

**Southern Baptist missions:
new frontiers since 1845**

By Mary Speidel

**Baptist Press
1/19/95**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Virginia Baptist J. Lewis Shuck (1812-1863) once dropped a note into the offering plate at a Baptist gathering. "I give myself," read the slip of paper.

In 1835 Shuck was named a missionary to China by the General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States for Foreign Missions, known as the Triennial Convention. Established in 1814, the Triennial Convention was the first national effort of American Baptists to help churches do the work of Christ's kingdom. The Triennial Convention was modeled after the British Baptist society system of denominational administration.

Missionary Shuck founded the first Protestant church in China in 1842, notes William R. Estep in "Whole Gospel -- Whole World," a recently published 150-year history of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Later Shuck transferred from the Triennial Convention to the newly formed Foreign Mission Board. That board and the Board of Domestic Missions (now the Home Mission Board) were created when the Southern Baptist Convention met for the first time in 1845.

Shuck's father-in-law, Addison Hall, suggested the name for the new denomination when Baptists from the South voted in Augusta, Ga., to separate from northern Baptists in 1845. Conflicts over the slavery issue fueled the ultimate division but other concerns were involved.

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The split was a painful chapter in Baptist history. But through it all missions emerged as the fabric of the Southern Baptist Convention. In fact, many perceived the new convention as a missionary society.

Marion, Ala., became the first home of the convention's domestic board while its foreign board was based in Richmond, Va. The domestic board changed names several times and eventually became the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, now in Atlanta, Ga. The domestic board's early tasks were sending preachers to frontier settlements, helping weak churches in the South -- with special focus on New Orleans -- and evangelizing African Americans.

Southern Baptists' first foreign field was China. Other early overseas fields were in Africa -- Liberia, Sierra Leone and Yoruba (Nigeria).

The Civil War took an emotional and financial toll on Southern Baptists. Because of rising inflation and debts, at times neither board could pay regular missionary salaries. The domestic board dropped most of its mission work to provide chaplains for Confederate forces. To remain on the mission field, some foreign missionaries supported themselves through secular jobs overseas.

Despite these hardships, Southern Baptists emerged from the war as committed to missions as ever before. In fact, within two years after the war's end, the Home Mission Board appointed 124 missionaries to 15 states and Indian territory. The board also sent out self-supporting evangelists.

Because of the Civil War, the foreign board did not enter any new countries until 1870, when it sent a missionary to Italy, Estep reports. Three years later the board appointed to China the woman who would become the most legendary missionary in Southern Baptist history -- Lottie Moon (1840-1912).

It was Moon who launched the idea that Southern Baptists collect a Christmas offering for foreign missions. But it was Annie Armstrong who suggested in 1918 the offering posthumously bear Moon's name.

Armstrong (1850-1938) was the first corresponding secretary for the Woman's Missionary Union, established in 1888 as an auxiliary to the convention. The denomination's annual Easter offering for home missions is named for Armstrong, who involved Southern Baptist women in mission work among immigrants, African Americans and Native Americans.

Since it was launched in 1925, the Cooperative Program has been the flagship channel through which Southern Baptists have funded their home and foreign mission work. For the denomination's 150th anniversary in 1995, meanwhile, both of the missions offerings will carry a combined goal of \$150 million -- \$50 million for home missions and \$100 million for foreign missions. That's a big vision for a denomination which set its first foreign missionaries' salaries at \$750 a year for couples. But Southern Baptists have come a long way in missions, though not without cost or conflict.

Southern Baptists in recent years have measured some of their progress in global missions against Bold Mission Thrust (BMT), a plan for mission advance adopted in 1976 by the convention. Bold Mission Thrust calls for every person on earth to hear the gospel by the end of the century. One of the plan's goals is to place 5,000 missionaries overseas by A.D. 2000.

Currently the Foreign Mission Board has 4,045 missionaries working in 130 countries. As of November 1, 1994, a total of 4,903 missionaries serve through the Home Mission Board. They work in all 50 states, American Samoa, Canada, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. More than 100 ethnic groups worship in about 100 languages in churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Southern Baptist Convention was constituted in 1845 to do missions. Continued faithfulness to that original purpose will serve Southern Baptists well as they enter the 21st century.

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A longer version of this article is available in the SBCNet News Room under SHUCK.HC To receive free guidelines and to purchase resources to help celebrate the SBC's 150th anniversary, write the Historical Commission, SBC, at 901 Commerce Street, #400, Nashville, TN 37203-3630, or call toll-free 1-800-966-BAPT.

EDITORS' NOTE: This story replaces one with the same headline in (BP) dated 1/18/95. State statistics are revised in the following story.

**Baptist college enrollment
up for 13th consecutive year**

By Tim Fields

**Baptist Press
1/19/95**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Enrollment at the 51 Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities showed an overall increase for the fall semester for the 13th consecutive year according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Statistics for the 1994 fall semester show 113,065 students attended the 51 Southern Baptist colleges and universities, a 2.4 percent increase over the 1993 total of 110,384.

Schools included in the enrollment report are all members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools. Not included in the total are enrollment figures from Wake Forest University and University of Richmond. Both schools failed to renew their membership in the association for 1995.

The enrollment figures include both full-time and part-time students in college credit courses but do not include students enrolled in non-credit courses. Enrollment statistics were released to the commission by each school.

A compilation of the figures shows that 34 of the 51 colleges and universities had an increase in enrollment from fall 1993 to fall 1994.

Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C., showed the largest numerical increase from fall 1993 to fall 1994 with 599 additional students, followed by Averett College, Danville, Va., with 399. Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, and University of Mobile, Mobile, Ala., both had 390 additional students.

University of Mobile had the largest percentage increase with 17.4 percent, followed by Shorter College, Rome, Ga., with 17.2 percent, Averett College, 16.5 percent, and North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C., 16.0 percent. The University of Mobile's increase includes students in the school's Latin American branch campus in Marcos, Nicaragua.

"The fact that nearly three-fourths of the colleges and universities experienced growth in enrollment over the previous year demonstrates the continued confidence that Southern Baptists have in their colleges and universities," said Stephen P. Carleton, executive director of the Education Commission.

"The faculty members and administrators of these institutions have worked diligently to strengthen the academic programs, to reach non-traditional students, and to provide innovative programs and opportunities for students that often stretch around the globe while applying their Christian faith to their particular academic disciplines. Thirteen years of continual growth is a testimony to the hard work of professors, administrators, staff, trustees and students," Carleton said.

"The mission purpose of Southern Baptist-related educational institutions is to equally emphasize personal faith and professional competency, and their success in this task is evident," he said.

Baylor University, Waco, Texas, remains the largest Southern Baptist-related university in the nation with 12,240 students, followed by Mercer University, Macon, Ga., with 6,823 students, and Campbell University with 6,646 students.

Some universities have reached or surpassed their established enrollment and are limiting the number of incoming students through admissions ceilings and/or higher standards.

Following are the 1994 fall enrollment figures and the percentage of increase or decrease from fall 1993 to fall 1994 (rounded to the nearest tenth of one percent) at the 51 Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities by state.

ALABAMA -- Judson College, 284, down 12.7 percent; University of Mobile, 2,245, up 17.4 percent; Samford University, 4,573, up 2.8 percent;

ARIZONA -- Grand Canyon University, 2,117, up 7.3 percent;

ARKANSAS -- Ouachita Baptist University, 1,440, up 4.8 percent; Williams Baptist College, 594, down 1.2 percent;

CALIFORNIA -- California Baptist College, 827, down 3.1 percent;

FLORIDA -- Florida Baptist Theological College, 491, down 1.2 percent; Palm Beach Atlantic College, 1,899, up 2.2 percent; Stetson University, 2,883, down 2.5 percent;

GEORGIA -- Brewton-Parker College, 2,230, up 1.1 percent; Mercer University, 6,823, up 1.4 percent; Shorter College, 1,455, up 17.2 percent; Truett-McConnell College, 2,006, down 2.8 percent;

KENTUCKY -- Campbellsville College, 1,251, up 7.5 percent; Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 128, down 3.1 percent; Cumberland College, 1,550, up 2.1 percent; Georgetown College, 1,405, up 1.6 percent;

LOUISIANA -- Louisiana College, 1,013, down 5.6 percent;

MISSISSIPPI -- Blue Mountain College, 437, up 10.8 percent; Mississippi College, 3,590, down 5.3 percent; William Carey College, 2,139, down 2.6 percent;

MISSOURI -- Hannibal-LaGrange College, 901, down 1.4 percent; Missouri Baptist College, 1,935, up 3.2 percent; Southwest Baptist University, 3,202, up 2.1 percent; William Jewell College, 1,735, down 2.9 percent;

NORTH CAROLINA -- Campbell University, 6,646, up 9.0 percent; Chowan College, 813, up 1.4 percent; Gardner-Webb University, 2,326, down 1.8 percent; Mars Hill College, 1,325, up .5 percent; Meredith College, 2,352, up .3 percent; Wingate College, 1,383, down 11.3 percent;

OKLAHOMA -- Oklahoma Baptist University, 2,440, up .3 percent;

SOUTH CAROLINA -- Anderson College, 956, down 18.3 percent; Charleston Southern University, 2,519, up 1.3 percent; Furman University, 2,976, down 6.8 percent; North Greenville College, 712, up 16.0 percent;

TENNESSEE -- Belmont University, 2,960, up 3.0 percent; Carson-Newman College, 2,163, up 1.7 percent; Union University, 2,352, up .6 percent;

TEXAS -- Baylor University, 12,240, up .4 percent; Dallas Baptist University, 2,989, up 6.2 percent; East Texas Baptist University, 1,333, up 6.0 percent; Hardin-Simmons University, 2,133, up 7.5 percent; Houston Baptist University, 2,131, down 3.4 percent; Howard Payne University, 1,484, up 2.0 percent; University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 2,244, up 5.7 percent; Wayland Baptist University, 3,438, up 11.3 percent;

VIRGINIA -- Averett College, 2,423, up 16.5 percent; Bluefield College, 826, up 7.4 percent; Virginia Intermont College, 748, up 4.4 percent.

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