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Japan missionaries cope
with earthquake traumasy

By Mark Kelly

Baptist Press
1/24/95

KOBE, Japan (BP)--As they minister in Kobe, Japan, Southern Baptist missionaries who live there are learning they are as much victims of the Jan. 17 earthquake as their Japanese neighbors.

Like their neighbors, missionaries also must cope with emotional trauma, the temporary loss of homes and belongings and the hardships of getting by without basic necessities.

In the aftermath of the quake that leveled much of Kobe, Foreign Mission Board missionaries struggled like everyone to stay warm and find food and water.

Some sifted through piles of broken household goods, looking for anything still usable. All are sorting through their own jumbled feelings to find answers that they need as much as their neighbors do -- even as they minister to those neighbors.

Their ministries have ranged from caring for an invalid man and others at an evacuation center, to standing in long food lines for elderly neighbors, to distributing relief supplies.

Missionaries Ron and Cindy Reynolds and their three teen-age children live in an apartment building on an island south of the city. While their building survived the quake, their belongings were completely destroyed. They joined several thousand other evacuees at a boarding school on the island where food, water and heat were available.

"We're all alive and healthy, and we can't be more grateful for that," Reynolds said from a pay telephone at the school-turned-evacuation center. "We have shelter, food and drinking water, so we're doing pretty good, except for the fact we haven't had a bath in four days."

Yet when Reynolds and his family, who are from Ft. Pierce, Fla., left the island to stay with friends in a nearby city for a few days, they collapsed into bed with a flu bug. The children also worry about returning to their 13th-floor apartment, Reynolds said.

Like Japanese survivors of the quake, missionaries are figuring out how to do without, said Janet Brooks, an Atlanta native who serves with her husband, Mike, in Kobe.

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"We're learning to live with less of everything -- clothes, dishes, water, food," she said. "But the devastation isn't just on the outside. At any big noise we jump, waiting for the next big aftershock. Our nerves are on edge."

One of those shocks jolted the family at 3 a.m. one night, sending 4-year-old Alicia into screams of panic, Brooks said.

More than 1,000 aftershocks have shaken Kobe in the week since the quake, which killed more than 5,000 people and injured more than 25,000. Officials still predict another shock at least as strong as the initial quake, which measured 7.2 on the Richter scale.

"We're all tense about that. The tension is there even when we sleep," said missionary Jamea Crum, from Springfield, Mo., who works in Kobe with her husband, David. "We wake up in the night and our arms and legs are tense. In the morning our teeth hurt because we clamp our jaws in our sleep."

"I can remember when the earthquake struck, it was just throwing us against the wall. I can remember calling out, 'Oh, God! Oh, God!' and trying to get to the kids," Crum said. "Since then we've just clung to each other. We haven't cried yet. I guess we're still in shock."

When trauma disrupts people's lives, it affects them emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually, said Rick Bates, a family counselor at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. Missionaries who suffered through the earthquake will experience the same struggles others face, he said. Missionaries who go through other disasters, wars and upheavals experience similar trauma.

"Emotionally, they can have difficulty functioning due to shock and grief reactions," Bates said. "Socially, one reaction can be to isolate themselves. Spiritually, they might have questions about God that have not surfaced previously. Their awareness of Christ's presence and power can become unfocused due to the trauma."

"It's important to understand traumatic reactions are part of the healing process," he added. "Genuine Christian fellowship and encouragement are vital."

The Foreign Mission Board will provide counseling for any missionary families in the Japan quake area who want it, Bates said. Families who want to do so may return to the United States. Several of the seven missionary families in Kobe retreated to nearby cities to rest for a couple of days.

"There's no way to put into words what all of us have been through," said Claudia Sherer, whose two teen-age children, Scott and Mandy, were in the boarding school at Kobe when the quake struck. "It's been a most profound experience -- extreme negatives and extreme positives."

The Sherer children weren't able to make the 350-mile journey home to Matsuyama City for almost a week after the quake. During that time, Sherer had little contact with them because of the communication disruptions.

"We're all exhausted, inside and outside, emotionally and physically," she said, her voice cracking with emotion. "We're on the edge humanly."

"Yet we know it's not us but God living and working through us. We've had immense peace."

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**Missionaries open relief center
in quake-devastated Japan city**

By Mark Kelly

**Baptist Press
1/24/95**

KOBE, Japan (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries have opened a distribution center for relief supplies being delivered by Japanese military trucks to earthquake-devastated Kobe, Japan.

Kobe Baptist Church, which survived the earthquake that leveled large sections of the city, will distribute food, water and other relief supplies trucked in by the Japanese army, reported Dennis Folds, a Southern Baptist missionary stationed near Kobe.

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Foreign Mission Board missionaries Bob Sherer, Bob Dilks and Mike Brooks are overseeing distribution of the much-needed supplies to residents of the area around the church.

The earthquake, which struck in the predawn hours of Jan. 17, killed more than 5,000 people and left as many as 300,000 homeless. Large sections of the city have no gas or electricity, and many residents depend on military shipments of food and water to survive.

A Foreign Mission Board assessment team surveyed missionary and church property in the city Jan. 21 and 22 to identify churches and mission buildings needing repair, said Christine Hailey, associate administrator of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board work in east Asia. Early reports indicated two churches and one missionary house sustained significant damage.

However, it may be some time before potential Southern Baptist volunteers will be allowed into the city to help with relief and repair projects, said Jim Foster, human needs director for the Foreign Mission Board.

Government officials still say they won't allow most foreigners into the city until the worst devastation has been cleared away.

Contributions for Japan quake relief may be sent to the human needs office, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. Or call toll-free 1-800-866-FMB1.

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RTVC, BSSB slate March launch
of weekly 'Home Life' TV show

By Shawn Switzer

Baptist Press
1/24/95

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is working with the Baptist Sunday School Board to produce "Home Life," a television series using the same title as the board's popular Home Life magazine.

The one-hour program will be broadcast weekly on ACTS (American Christian Television System) and FamilyNet beginning the first week in March.

"The television program discusses topics related to home and family life and focuses on lifestyles, values and relationships," said Bob Thornton, RTVC vice president of television services. "While part of the program's aim is to develop a wide and loyal audience

through upbeat and entertaining segments, its primary purpose will be to celebrate and undergird family life through inspiring interviews, challenging applications and practical instruction, while providing role models for healthy families."

"The 'Home Life' television program has been on the drawing board for some time," said Jack Johnson, RTVC president. "We are pleased to be working with the Sunday School Board in producing this quality series. This program is just another indication of what can be accomplished when two or more Southern Baptist entities exercise a cooperative spirit in proclaiming the gospel of Christ."

Although not a typical talk show, "Home Life" resembles the syndicated "Live! with Regis and Kathy Lee" program, Thornton said. The hosts, Ralph Baker and Vicki Hutson, both of Dallas, will conduct interviews and discuss relevant issues affecting society. "Through their interviews they will educate viewers about a wide range of topics including world events, God-based relationships, health and entertainment news," Thornton said. "Solid biblical principles are woven throughout the program emphasizing family values and Christian ideals to offer practical insight into today's busy lifestyle."

"We're looking for any topic that can enhance family living or improve the way we conduct our lives," said Martin Coleman, producer of the series. "Everything from sewing to rowing, cooking to karate, and mid-life crisis to auto repair will be considered for the program."

Charlie Warren, editor of the Sunday School Board's Home Life magazine, said he is looking forward to the joint effort.

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"While there are no specific plans to coordinate the content of the show with each month's magazine, I believe the two will be complementary," Warren said. "We hope to work with RTVC producers fairly closely on the personalities we feature. We will let them know of our upcoming cover features, and they will let us know some of the people they are going to interview on the program."

Warren said the main benefit of the TV program to the magazine is the exposure to a large television audience. He said he is confident the program and the magazine have similar objectives.

"Home Life" programs will include many segments similar to those found in the magazine. Author and financial advisor Ron Blue will offer financial advice; clinical psychologists Mike and Mary Stedham will answer viewer questions; and Florence Littauer will entertain with her helpful hints and humorous vignettes.

"We specialize in combining the famous and not-so-well-known personalities who have inspiring stories to share," Coleman said.

Examples of such stories being considered include a paraplegic who completed a record-setting row-cycle journey from Los Angeles to Washington; an interview with a race track chaplain at Daytona Beach, Fla.; testimonies from people who have saved lives; and a Vietnam veteran with no legs who is a noted Christian evangelist.

Issues in the news that impact the family such as health care, the information superhighway, education, crime and gangs are among other issues to be explored.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to maximize the resources of both agencies to spotlight the biblical teaching of God's Word concerning the family, home and related issues," said James T. Draper Jr., BSSB president. "All of this placed in a contemporary delivery system will help these truths to come alive for people all across the nation. This partnership demonstrates the best use of our Southern Baptist structure of cooperation and focuses the light of the Word of God on the most-needed area of our society -- the home and family."

ACTS reaches into more than 22 million homes through the Faith and Values Channel via cable television. FamilyNet beams its programming to more than 200 broadcast television stations across the United States via satellite, with a potential audience of more than 55 million homes.

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**Florida leaders decry
anti-abortion violence**

By Barbara Denman

Baptist Press
1/24/95

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)--A group of Florida Baptists, including Executive Director-Treasurer John Sullivan, joined several other Florida pro-life groups to reject violence as a way of ending abortion on demand.

Those who engage in violence to stop abortions "disserve the pro-life cause," said Ken Conner, a member of the board of directors of a network of crisis pregnancy centers and member of Celebration Baptist Church, Tallahassee. "While they may call themselves anti-abortion, we don't believe they can call themselves pro-life."

The group issued a joint statement during a news conference Jan. 19 in the state capital on the eve of the 22nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

Abortion clinics in Pensacola, Fla., have been the sites of two such killings.

The statement was signed by more than 35 organizations including the Florida Baptist Convention, Florida Baptist Association, Florida Catholic Conference, Christian Coalition of Florida, Coral Ridge Ministries, Lutherans for Life and North Florida Presbyterians Pro-life and Task Force of United Methodists on Abortion and Sexuality.

The statement also calls for a renewed commitment from the pro-life community to the life-affirming principles which undergird the pro-life cause.

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In his statement, Sullivan said, "Florida Baptists are greatly troubled by the casual attitudes about abortion reflected in the current state of abortion law, as well as the ease with which abortion on demand is available in this state.

"We are further distressed and saddened by the ill-conceived and equally wrong solution of killing abortion doctors to which some individuals have resorted."

Sullivan added that in addition to voicing opposition to clinic violence, Florida Baptists wanted to stress practical ways they are seeking to help victims of crisis pregnancies.

These include church-sponsored crisis pregnancy centers that offer counseling and adoption alternatives; special care ministries for unwed mothers and mothers-to-be; Florida Baptist Family Ministries services that offer a home for unwed mothers, adoption services, foster care for newborns and children; and encouraging church leaders to teach the biblical concept of human sexuality.

Conner said the pro-life movement "is a victim of the acts of violence," adding there is no way these "lawless people" can justify their actions theologically.

The press conference also included a statement from Michael McCarron, executive director, Florida Catholic Conference.

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Clinton abortion-rights activism
debated in international policy By Darrell Turner

Baptist Press
1/24/95

WASHINGTON (BP)--Has the Clinton administration moved U.S. foreign policy into an abortion-rights agenda? The answer seems to depend on who's giving it.

"On the abortion issue, there's absolutely no change from previous administrations," said Howard Salter, senior press officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). He told Baptist Press, "We are governed by the Helms Amendment, which is very similar to the Hyde Amendment domestically. The Helms Amendment basically says that no U.S. government money can be used to fund abortions."

A State Department policy adviser, who spoke on condition of anonymity, acknowledged during the U.N.'s International Conference on Population and Development in September in Cairo the U.S. delegation supported a woman's right to choose abortion.

"However," the official added, "we also recognized in these discussions that there was something of such a delicate nature that this was policy making that needed to be done at whatever appropriate level at any nation, and there was not going to be any effort made to internationalize abortion law."

But Daniel R. Heimbach, who represented the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission at a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) forum during the Cairo conference, declared "the Clinton Administration has made a significant course change on abortion as a matter of family planning."

Heimbach, associate professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., noted previous administrations had been guided by the Mexico City policy, announced at the World Population Conference held there in 1984, to cut off U.S. support for family planning organizations that offer abortions or information about abortion. The policy was overturned by President Clinton during his first week in office.

According to Heimbach, the final document at the Cairo conference, which was endorsed by the U.S. delegation, "allows the expenditure of U.N. population funds to support abortion services in countries where there is no law against it. That is new. That has not been done before."

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James A. Smith, director of government relations for the SBC's Christian Life Commission in Washington, said he has seen indications the administration is "trying to get around the Kemp-Kasten Amendment," which bars the United States from funding the U.N. Population Fund as long as the U.N. fund provides money for countries with "family planning policies which included coercive abortion or coercive sterilization programs as part of their family planning programs, and the target there was China."

The Chinese government heatedly denies forced abortions occur in the country, but many independent reports indicate they occur frequently. Further, China's one-child law is enforced so strictly, at least in urban centers, that it is in effect a forced abortion policy for women who want to keep their jobs and avoid social ostracism, international pro-life observers contend.

The State Department official who spoke with Baptist Press said he didn't think it's "legitimate" to bar all U.S. funding for the U.N. fund just to keep it away from programs like the one in China. He said the U.N. fund has agreed to keep U.S. money in a separate account so that none would go to China. However, he said, by withholding all U.S. funding from the U.N. fund, U.S. policy, in effect, withholds support from "every other country in the world whose programs do not encourage coercion."

The CLC's Smith said the emphasis on no U.S. tax money going to finance abortions around the world is "a distinction without a difference" because "money is being given to organizations which rabidly promote abortion as a method of family planning as a good means of birth control throughout the world. While tax dollars may not be used to perform abortions, they are being used by those organizations to promote abortion."

Similarly, Heimbach said in the Clinton administration "there is a concerted effort to try to shift the fundamental moral bases in how to deal with this. ... It's basically the globalization of the Joycelyn Elders agenda."

What many observers saw as evidence of this was a State Department cable sent March 16, 1994, to all overseas U.S. diplomatic posts. It reportedly requested "senior diplomatic interventions" to get across the U.S. position that "access to safe, legal and voluntary abortion is a fundamental right of all women."

The State Department official who spoke with Baptist Press said he was unable to release a text of the cable because it was a classified document. He said the full cable was "very lengthy," and that the references to U.S. population policy only made up one paragraph of it.

The current U.S. direction in world population policy is in sharp contrast to positions taken by the Southern Baptist Convention and the Christian Life Commission despite the fact both President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore are Southern Baptists.

Asked about these discrepancies, Smith noted both Clinton and Gore affiliated with SBC congregations after they became active in politics. "There's absolutely no doubt that they have taken positions that have put them outside the mainstream of Southern Baptists," Smith said.

Heimbach noted "Southern Baptists are very diverse, and we have a great deal of independence at the local church level. While there might be issues that are agreed upon at the convention level, that doesn't mean that every church is going to support it or agree with it."

In Clinton's case, Heimbach said, "My guess is that the moral grid that he is using has not been one that he has taken from his church but that he has taken from elsewhere."

**Campbellsville is first college
to join SBC 150th celebration**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Campbellsville (Ky.) College has become the first Baptist college in the nation to announce specific plans for observing the Southern Baptist Convention's 150th anniversary celebration.

The announcement was made Jan. 24 in Nashville, Tenn., by Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the SBC's Historical Commission.

"We are excited that Campbellsville College has initiated the effort among Southern Baptist colleges and universities to promote this year-long event," said Kim Medley, director of communications at the Historical Commission. "The Historical Commission hopes others who are proud of their Southern Baptist heritage will follow Campbellsville's lead during 1995."

"The Southern Baptist Convention emerged in 1845 from a people with a heart for missions, a tradition worthy of remembering with gratitude," May said. "This noble heritage carried on for 150 years inspires commitment to the unfinished task of global missions."

Founded in 1906, Campbellsville College is a comprehensive coeducational institution which emphasizes liberal arts and sciences, business, teacher education and professional studies. Located in south-central Kentucky, the college has an enrollment of 1,260, the largest ever in its history.

Campbellsville College will focus on the SBC's 150th anniversary during its 1995 Heritage Day Wednesday, Sept. 20, according to Kenneth W. Winters, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated institution.

Winters said the college will have a noted Southern Baptist speaker for that day's morning convocation service in honor of the SBC's 150th anniversary celebration. The name of the speaker will be announced at a later date, he said.

To receive a free copy of "Guidelines for Celebrating 150 Years of Southern Baptist Heritage" containing suggested activities and resources for this observance, call the Historical Commission at 1-800-966-BAPT. The main celebration events of the year will be held from May through June.

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**Hospital waiting room provided
fertile ground for his witness**

By Ken Walker

**Baptist Press
1/24/95**

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)--Most people would think John Hunt needed a dose of hope himself while waiting for his wife to have surgery for breast cancer.

Instead, he spent his time in the waiting room offering the hope of Jesus Christ to others.

Before he left his house for the hospital that morning last October, Hunt picked up some witnessing materials to review in preparation for the upcoming "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" evangelism campaign initiated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Rather than studying the tracts, the Lexington, Ky., layman used them to witness to two lab technicians in the waiting room. The two women had asked him about another book he was carrying, "Husband and Wife: Best of Friends."

Hunt, a risk manager for the University of Kentucky, had picked up the book at last September's Fall Festival of Marriage in Louisville. It was during that weekend his wife, Judy, first felt the cancerous lump in her breast.

The story of the book and the marriage festival built a natural bridge for Hunt to talk about his Christian faith, he said.

"I ended by witnessing about the plan of salvation," said Hunt, a deacon and member of the outreach committee at Lexington's Southern Heights Baptist Church. "I explained it doesn't matter what denomination you're a member of, as long as you repent. Only by faith in Jesus Christ can you be saved."

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When he finished, one of the women was in tears, saying, "I feel like I should be in church right now."

Hunt then helped the women review the gospel tracts and the prayer at the end. Although they didn't have a chance to pray together, Hunt will have further contact with the women, who are assisting with a University of Kentucky study of breast cancer.

"That episode in the waiting room is a truly remarkable experience," Hunt said. "It shows us what God wants us to do, what our priorities should be and how important the 'Here's Hope' witnessing campaign is. The time we spend on earth, 70 to 75 years, is so short compared to eternity. That's what we need to be concerned about."

Hunt also surprised fellow church member Carol Sebree when she came to the hospital to check on him. He asked her to wait while he finished talking with the lab technicians about Jesus.

She wondered how he could be calm in the midst of such trying circumstances. But Hunt said he already had worked through grief and had a meaningful prayer time the night before.

"The doctors were doing everything they could, and through faith we knew God was doing everything he could in surgery, working with the doctors," Hunt said. "So I had peace and a knowledge that everything works out for the best."

The night after the operation, Hunt told his church family what God done.

Since then, many other opportunities have arisen because of Mrs. Hunt's remarkable progress with chemotherapy treatment. When people ask Hunt about his wife's progress, he seizes the opportunity to witness.

On Jan. 9, the first day of the "Here's Hope" campaign, Hunt witnessed to eight people who asked about his wife. He plans to follow up with two who aren't Christians.

As outreach director, Hunt also has encouraged other church members to share their faith. A total of 38 members at Southern Heights have committed to the "Here's Hope" effort.

He compares the 41 pounds he lost in a university wellness program to the fear some people experience about witnessing. He never had a problem telling others about his weight loss, he said, so why should he be afraid to talk about the greatest thing that happened in his life?

When believers lay a foundation each morning with Bible reading and pray that the Lord will use them that day, God will place people in their paths the same way he experienced at the hospital, Hunt said.

"I know after what happened in the waiting room that 'Here's Hope' is very serious," he said. "I was thinking Judy's operation was the most important thing that day, but the Lord already had that under control."

"We should be thankful and tell others about this hope we have. Just think, the Creator loves us enough to send his Son to die for us."

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Darin Scott Davis named
TimeRite sales manager

By C.C. Risenhoover

Baptist Press
1/24/95

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Darin Scott Davis has been named national sales manager for TimeRite, the in-house marketing and sales arm of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Davis comes to the position from KARD-TV, a Fox affiliate in Monroe, La., where he was an account executive.

"We are fortunate to have a person of Darin's ability join our sales staff," said Steve Roberson, president of TimeRite. "He has a heart for ministry, a professional background in sales and the kind of enthusiasm necessary to significantly impact sales for ACTS, FamilyNet and RadioServ."

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ACTS is the RTVC's cable television service that reaches into more than 21 million homes. FamilyNet is its broadcast television service that reaches into more than 65 million homes and RadioServ is its satellite radio network.

Davis, 27, is a native of Longview, Texas. He graduated from Northeast Louisiana University at Monroe in 1990 and worked in Houston as major account manager for a long distance provider before joining KARD-TV in 1993. Covering northeast Louisiana and southeast Arkansas, he led the station's sales team in billing.

"It was easy to sell because the station has the demographics advertisers want," Davis said. "But selling some Fox Network programs really bothered me. Some of the programs being shown on secular television caused me to fear for my son's spiritual well-being, especially when he gets older."

Davis's son, Joshua, is 3 years old.

"This opportunity with the Radio and Television Commission is something I've been hoping and praying for," Davis said. "I've felt the call to pursue a career in Christian broadcasting for some time. Now God has put it all together for me."

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