

Lutheran Church Gives \$50,000 To Hugo Relief

APPLETON, Wis.—Cash contributions and fundraising efforts by Aid Association for Lutherans, an Appleton, Wis.-based fraternal benefit society with 46,000 members in the Carolinas, contributed \$50,000 to help victims of Hurricane Hugo in the Columbia, S.C. and Charlotte, N.C. areas.

AAL sent \$30,000 to the Albert Godown Agency of AAL in Columbia, and \$20,000 to the Ralph Cox Agency of AAL in Charlotte. The money is being used by local AAL volunteer groups, called branches, to purchase and distribute food, ice, blankets and needed items, and to assist with general cleanup.

AAL sent a representative to the hurricane-stricken area to help coordinate its relief efforts.

In addition, branches may have used their own funds to sponsor fundraising and relief projects.

Employees at AAL's home office in Wisconsin also contributed \$426 to help those affected, by Hurricane Hugo. The money was raised through the sale of refreshments at a "One Sky, One World" kitemily at the home office on Oct. 8. The kitemily, a local event which was part of an international effort to promote world peace, was sponsored by the AAL Involvement Corps Team. The ICT provides AAL employees with opportunities to volunteer for service and fundraising projects.

Money raised through AAL's "Helping Hands: Caring Acts Through Fundraising or Service" program also were transferred from local AAL volunteer groups called branches outside of the stricken area to those in the affected region. Some of these funds, for example, were used to purchase truckloads of dry ice for more than 70 families in Summerville, S.C.

Experience gained by AAL members and employees in assisting Hurricane Hugo victims is being put into practice to help victims of the earthquake in the San Francisco Bay area.

AAL representatives are working with local disaster control agencies to assess damage and the needs of victims. An AAL representative from the home office is now in the earthquake area to organize firsthand the assistance efforts, and information will be relayed to AAL's home office.

Church Escapes Powerful Quake During Meeting

BY SHIRLEY D. BLASH
NNPA News Service
SACRAMENTO, Calif.—"We were just finishing our closing prayer when it happened. The building began to sway from one side to the other, then it shook violently, causing people to lose their balance, falling all over each other. Tables toppled and objects flew everywhere. It was unbelievable," said Rev. Dr. Ephraim Williams, who was attending the 49th annual session of the California Baptist Convention at the AMFAC Hotel, in Burlingame, when a powerful earthquake struck northern California on Oct. 17.

The tremor hit shortly after 5 p.m., as a group exited the Ministers Division meeting, which had just concluded. Dr. Williams, CBC's president at large, was thrown to the floor and struck against a table from the impact of someone falling on him.

Despite a neck injury and the threat of the building collapsing, he joined one of the rescue teams quickly formed. They evacuated a group of churchwomen meeting in another room. "We were concerned about their safety. It was all we could do to get those people out of there," said Dr. Williams, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Sacramento.

The 850 conventioners and other hotel occupants were evacuated, and none of the church group was seriously injured, Dr. Williams said.

Approximately 1,500 to 2,000 people were reportedly at the 329-room hotel, attending several events, when the quake struck. Officials said 222 suffered injuries at the AMFAC, which was shut down after it incurred major structural damage. Guests were bused to area hotels, where they remained overnight.

Rev. Bobby Newman, president of the California State Baptist Convention, is credited for the skillful manner in which he directed convention members during the emergency. "He pulled the total group together, organizing teams, who worked to make certain everyone was safe, and later visited each location we were at to give us the latest information," said Dr. Williams, who added, "He exhibited strong leadership ability."

As he sat on a couch safely in his Sacramento home, Dr. Williams said, in retrospect, he felt "very blessed." Not only was his injury minor, but the pastor's wife, Carrie Sue, and son, Ephraim, Jr., narrowly missed the I-80 (Nimitz) freeway and Bay Bridge catastrophes.



JUST SAY NO—Local community members recently held a Just Say No Workshop at Rush Metropolitan AME Zion Church as part of an on-going effort to help eliminate drug abuse. In photo are: Rev. C. E. White III along with Mesdames, Alda McCullers, Gloria Hall, Hazel C. Reese, Seretha Morgan, Annie H. Thorpe, Minnie Hass, Marvie Evans, Gail Ashwood and officer John G. Annis. (Photo by Wildert Sanders)

Billy Graham Tours Relief Sites To Pray With Victims Of Disaster

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Evangelist Billy Graham, at the request of the Salvation Army, toured relief sites throughout the San Francisco Bay area for the past several days in locations most heavily damaged by the northern California earthquake to pray with victims of the disaster and encourage volunteers, police, firemen and other rescuers who have been working around the clock.

Graham had come to California to address a Salvation Army banquet to raise money for the homeless and to receive a star on the famous Hollywood Walk of Fame in front of Mann's Chinese Theater. The Salvation Army invited him to join them in the disaster area.

"I came here to see people," Graham said. "The damaged buildings you could see on television, but television can't show the damaged hearts and lives very well. Hopefully, I can encourage them to trust in God."

Despite a torrential downpour which hampered relief efforts, Graham visited Salvation Army Emergency Service Operations in San Francisco, Oakland, Watsonville and Santa Cruz, including canteens, food and clothing distribution centers and a tent city.

Everywhere he went, people asked the evangelist to pray with them, including victims standing in line in need of food and shelter, families living in tents, rescuers, city officials and volunteers. He was also able to have a prayer with a group of police and state troopers.

"I feel like I have prayed my way through this area," Graham said. He encouraged everyone not to give up on God because He loves them and would see them through.

"I don't think we can say this earthquake was sent by God," Graham said. "We have to keep in mind that He is a God of love, mercy and grace. But He can use what happened in the earthquake to bring people closer to Him and closer to each other."

While visiting the Cypress Overpass of the Nimitz Freeway (I-880), Graham donated \$100,000 to the Salvation Army, which totally depletes his organization's emergency relief fund. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association channeled similar assistance for disasters in other parts of the world earlier this year—most recently for the victims of Hurricane Hugo.

"I know it's a drop in the bucket," Graham said. "But you need a lot of drops to meet all the needs here." Graham said he is a great admirer of the work of the Salvation Army because William Booth, their founder, was an evangelist who combined soul salvation with relief efforts. He praised them for the work they are doing in the Bay area to meet both the physical needs of earthquake victims as well as the spiritual, in providing critically needed counseling.

"The needs are not only material," he said. "People are afraid and have scars in their hearts, souls and minds—especially children. When the private sector comes in, they come in with compassion and a lot less red tape. Many churches, with the love of God in their hearts, can also reach out to these people."

Graham said that three things occurred to him as he viewed the damage and met with people affected by the disaster. First, this is a time of remembrance—for people injured and killed. Second, it is a time to be grateful—that there weren't any more casualties. Third, it is a time to get our priorities right—things we

think important are not so important after all.

He noted that disasters like this can bring people closer to God and strengthen their faith—many who were not going to church started going again over last weekend. Graham said that there have also been many wonderful testimonies of people who have been brought together in a spirit of unity and have turned to God in prayer.

The evangelist surveyed the damage in the San Francisco Marina area with one of the city supervisors. However, much of his visit focused on smaller towns in the South Bay which were hardest hit. During his 40-year ministry, Graham has held seven crusades in the Bay area and nearby Fresno and Sacramento. Additionally, years ago he preached at a church in Watsonville, a farming community near the earthquake's epicenter, which he visited.

The mayor of Santa Cruz escorted him through the downtown area which was completely closed pending

demolition and reconstruction. The police chief of Watsonville told Graham that the earthquake had brought out the best in people, and that they have had only four arrests during the past week—far less than normal.

"Why this earthquake took place, I can't explain," Graham told reporters. "I can only explain God gives grace, and strength to those who trust in Him."

Sailor Pleads Guilty In Black Church Arson

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. (AP)—Prosecutors say they will seek the maximum sentence for a white man convicted of setting fire to an all-black church founded more than 120 years ago by slaves who escaped to freedom in the North.

James Russell Calvin, 20, of Alton, who was away without leave from the U.S. Navy last October when the Godfrey Church was burned, pleaded guilty to arson last Thursday.

Madison County sheriff's investigators said Calvin admitted setting fire last October to the New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was founded 126 years ago by escaped slaves. It was the second arson in a year at the church, which is also known as Rocky Fork Church. Calvin is not a suspect in the first arson, investigators said.

Navy officials later advised Madison County authorities that Calvin was suspected of writing racial slurs in a barracks room that was discovered vandalized the day Calvin is believed to have gone AWOL from San Diego.

Assistant State's Attorney Randy Massey said prosecutors plan to ask for a maximum sentence of seven years at a sentencing hearing that will be set after the county probation department submits its report on Calvin.

Calvin's attorney, however, said he pleaded guilty in Madison County Circuit Court instead of going to trial because defense evidence of Calvin's "special circumstances" is more likely to receive consideration from a sentencing judge than a jury.

"We think the evidence will be taken up more appropriately in a sentencing hearing," said attorney Jim Wallis of Granite City, who is representing Calvin as a public

defender. Wallis said alcohol abuse will be part of the case for a lighter sentence or probation, although he declined to say whether or not Calvin is an alcoholic. He said other evidence will involve a physical injury and the pressures on Calvin from his military service just before the arson.

Calvin last year denied knowing that the Godfrey church had a black congregation when he set the fire, sheriff's investigators said. He told investigators he broke into the church out of curiosity because he had heard rumors it was the site of devil worship. He said he set the fire after he discovered a can of gasoline inside the church.

At the time Calvin set fire to the church, it had just been rebuilt after an arson fire in April. The structure has since been rebuilt again. No arrests have been made in the first fire.


Annual Craft Show Helps Third World Countries

Mark your calendar for the annual Hands Around the World Craft Show being held again this year at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church at 1801 Hillsborough St. in Raleigh on Saturday, Nov. 11.

On sale will be weavings, brasswork, pottery, carvings, jewelry, baskets and toys made by craftsmen and women in Third World countries.

Also being sold that day will be UNICEF cards, Quest for Peace shirts and a display of the International Heifer Project.

Come to the Hands Around the World Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11.



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A woman, shopping on her lunch hour, noticed that she was running late. At the supermarket, her last stop, she put the groceries in her car, left the shopping cart in the parking lot and drove back to the office. Then she realized that her purse was missing. She ran out to the car. No purse. She raced back to the market, saying every prayer she had ever learned. There were vehicles parked all around where she had left the cart a half hour before. Not only was the cart still there, her purse was still in it; on the top shelf, visible to the world. Nothing, including money, checkbook, insurance card, etc., had been touched. At her House of Worship, she thanked the Lord for forgiving her carelessness and surrounding her property with the most honest (or unobservant) people He could find.



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