

Associated Baptist Press

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Baptist ethicists, church leaders call for inspections of missile attack site

By Bob Allen

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- A group of Baptist ethicists and church leaders is asking President Clinton to encourage international inspections of the site of a United States missile attack in the Sudan, amid questions about whether the destroyed pharmaceutical plant was being used to make chemical weapons.

The U.S. launched cruise missiles Aug. 20 against the factory based on the presence of a chemical that is used to make the nerve agent VX and links to Osama bin Laden, a Saudi millionaire suspected of ordering terrorist attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Since the attack, newspapers including the Los Angeles Times and New York Times have reported that U.S. officials were unaware at the time of the attack that the facility was in fact being used to produce human and veterinary medicines, that the chemical ingredient Empta could theoretically have commercial uses and that evidence linking bin Laden financially to the facility was overstated.

In light of such questions, 19 Baptist ethicists, educators and congregational leaders signed an open letter sent to Clinton Sept. 3. The leaders urged Clinton to encourage inspections of the site by international scientists to verify whether the plant was in fact producing chemicals that could only be used to produce poison gas. Preferably, they said, the United Nations should choose the scientists to conduct the inspections.

Should it be verified that the attack destroyed the wrong target, the ethicists called on Clinton to "give a sincere apology to the people of the Sudan and to follow that apology with a sincere effort to assist in reconstruction."

Even if evidence verifies the presence of a component of chemical weapons, the letter said, "many of us believe there is already cause to apologize and to help rebuild," arguing that the Sudan's ruling party does not represent the wishes of most citizens for more peaceful relations with other countries, including the U.S.

"What can bombing that devastates the lives of sick and needy poor, especially in Muslim-governed countries, accomplish but [to] create hostility that breeds terrorism against the United States?" the ethicists asked.

The Baptist leaders suggested the most effective way to prevent terrorism in the Sudan is to bring an end to the country's civil war and restore democracy. "Terrorists do not usually come from countries that are democracies, where the economy is meeting the basic needs of the people or where international cooperation is providing a safety vent," the letter said.

"We urge your leadership, and congressional leadership, in focusing national attention on effective preventive actions against terrorism," the letter said.

The ethicists lauded recent efforts by governments to acknowledge error and seek forgiveness for past actions. Governments never used to acknowledge their own errors, they said. But recently, governments in South Africa, Germany and the U.S. have apologized for past hostilities.

For example, President Bush apologized for internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and Clinton apologized to African nations on a recent trip, they noted.

"This new practice by governments gives new hope for peace and is crucial for nurturing the human readiness to make peace," the letter said. "If the U.S. has erred in bombing that pharmaceutical plant, we urge you to state a clear apology and to follow it with remedial action."

"This will be dramatic moral leadership," the letter continued. "The world needs moral leadership from the United States, and from your office. You have the eloquence and the compassion to lead in that way. We will support you in that declaration. We believe the American people will respect and support an apology, if evidence indicates it is right, and we are sure other nations will."

The New York Times reported Aug. 27 that the chemical cited by the U.S. to justify the attack could be used for commercial products. While experts said the chemical Empta, which is the key ingredient for VX, could also be used to make fungicides and anti-microbial agents, none interviewed by the paper was aware of its use in any commercial products.

The Los Angeles Times reported Sept. 1 that U.S. officials "erred in their original explanation" of how they picked the target. Officials acknowledged they were unaware the facility was used to produce human and veterinary medicines for the impoverished nation, the paper reported, and that the link to ben Ladin was initially overstated.

Still, U.S. officials continued to defend the attack. The New York Times quoted Secretary of Defense William Cohen Sept. 2 as saying the incomplete intelligence was irrelevant to Clinton's decision to destroy the factory. While the plant's connection to ben Ladin was at most "indirect," Cohen said, "we decided that if he had a connection, as we believe he did, it would be wise to take it down."

Signers of the letter included Robert Parham of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville, Tenn.; Glenn Stassen of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.; Rob Anderson of Montreat College in North Carolina; Rick Axtell of Centre College in Danville, Ky.; Jim Ball of the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, D.C.; Kent Blevins of Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C.; Daniel Buttry of the Gavel Memorial Peace Fund in Warren, Mich.; Curtis Freeman of Houston Baptist University; Stan Grenz of Carey Theological College in Vancouver, British Columbia; Ray Higgins, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark.; Ed Hogan of Jersey Village Baptist Church in Houston; David Hughes of First Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.; Rick McClatchey of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma; Daniel McGee of Baylor University in Waco, Texas; Dennis Sansom of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; Ken Sehested of the Baptist Peace Fellowship in Lake Junaluska, N.C.; Paul Simmons of the University of Louisville Medical School in Louisville, Ky.; Philip Thompson of Roberts Chapel Baptist Church in Pendleton, N.C.; and Bill Wilson of First Baptist Church in Waynesboro, Va.

Book, endowment fund honor former Kentucky editor

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) -- C.R. Daley's 27-year tenure as Western Recorder editor was marked by deep conviction and steadfast courage, friends and family members said at an Aug. 31 banquet honoring Daley and his wife, Christine.

The banquet, attended by about 140 people at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., was the first major effort to raise money for an endowment fund established in the Daleys' honor by the Kentucky Baptist newspaper. In addition, a new book, titled "Daley Observations," was unveiled at the event. The book contains 75 editorials written by Daley during his 1957-84 editorship and carries the same title as his weekly Western Recorder column.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go into the Daley endowment, which is managed by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Earnings from the endowment will help fund Western Recorder's effort to provide a copy of the weekly newspaper to every Kentucky Baptist pastor free of charge.

During the banquet, R.G. Puckett, editor of North Carolina's Biblical Recorder, said Daley has been a friend, colleague and role model during Puckett's four decades of state Baptist newspaper work.

"From Daley, I learned a new definition of courage," Puckett said. "He believed in confronting issues with the truth. Nowhere is that more evident than his editorials on race relations in the 1960s." Puckett called Daley's editorial condemning the 1963 Birmingham, Ala., church bombing that killed three black girls "a classic."

Puckett, who is retiring in North Carolina Dec. 31, has served as editor of three state Baptist papers and was Daley's associate editor for three years in the 1960s.

Daley has consistently demonstrated integrity, Puckett noted. "If it is the truth, it must be handled responsibly, and falsehoods, even subtle innuendoes, must be exposed for what they are and the damage they can cause."

Daley's editorship, Puckett said, was exemplified by humility, despite "his keen mind" and his stature as "dean of editors." Daley always has remembered his rural south Georgia roots, he added.

A simple formula governs Daley's life, Puckett said: "We must have hard heads and soft hearts, which is his interpretation of what Jesus had in mind, when he said his disciples should be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves."

Daley, 79, attended the banquet but because of fragile health was not able to address the audience.

Western Recorder Editor Mark Wingfield emphasized the importance of keeping the Daley legacy alive. The book and the endowment are ways to perpetuate Daley's vision of a free and responsible newspaper for Kentucky Baptists, he said.

Even though Daley retired 14 years ago, Wingfield said Daley's influence still "casts a shadow" on the Western Recorder. Wingfield said when he's debating whether to confront a controversial issue directly, he thinks about what Daley would do. He said his thought is typically, "Dr. Daley would write this. I know he would."

Wingfield and former Kentucky Baptist Convention staff member A.B. Colvin co-edited the collection of editorials. To pick the best of the writings, Colvin reread every editorial Daley wrote.

"As I worked through (the book) editing it, I was amazed that sometimes, if I didn't look at the date on the editorial, I could have sworn they were written yesterday," Wingfield said. "They are so relevant to the place we live even today."

Gil Daley, eldest of four Daley sons, said the family views the book as "a means, an instrument of carrying on God's work."

In addition to the issues of the day, C.R. Daley sometimes wrote about the positive influence of his parents, his wife and other family members on his life and ministry, the younger Daley said.

Recounting C.R. Daley's final editorial, which paraphrased the Psalmist by saying, "my lines have fallen on pleasant places," Gil Daley said, "Because of Dad and Mom, our lines have fallen on pleasant places."

The senior Daley "never minced words" as a preacher, teacher or as an editorialist, said his son, a Hazard physician. "His philosophy was always to give Baptists all the facts and let them make up their own minds."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Copies of "Daley Observations," published by Western Recorder with the help of Providence House Publishers in Franklin, Tenn., may be purchased from Western Recorder for \$15 each. Contributions to the C.R. and Christine Daley Endowment Fund should be sent directly to the Western Recorder.

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Billy Graham rated among century's top religious figures

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- Southern Baptist evangelist Billy Graham is among the top 25 religious figures of the 20th century as selected by the PBS television program "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly."

The program, hosted by Bob Abernethy, kicked off its second season Sept. 4 with a roundtable discussion of the list featuring historian Martin Marty, New York Times columnist Peter Steinfels and Phyllis Tickle, contributing editor in religion for Publisher's Weekly.

Others on the list, which was compiled by the show's producers, were (in alphabetical order) Karl Barth, Swiss pastor and theologian; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German pastor and theologian; Martin Buber, Jewish theologian; the 14th Dalai Lama; Dorothy Day, pacifist and founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and newspaper; Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science; Mohandas Gandhi; Gustavo Guitierrez, a Peruvian priest and father of liberation theology; Carl F.H. Henry, an evangelical theologian and founder of Christianity Today magazine; Abraham Joshua Heschel, rabbi and civil-rights activist; Pope John XXIII; Pope John Paul II; Martin Luther King Jr.; Ayatollah Khomeini; writers C.S. Lewis and Thomas Merton; Elijah Muhammed, founder of the Nation of Islam; Reinhold Niebuhr, a Protestant theologian; Norman Vincent Peale; Walter Rauschenbusch, founder of the social gospel; Albert Schweitzer; Menachem Mendel Schneerson, a Hasidic Jewish leader; Mother Theresa; and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel.

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-- By ABP staff

Killer's mom turns grief into ministry to inmates

By Joyce Sweeney Martin

INEZ, Ky. (ABP) -- The van stopped and Eileen Mullins watched as her son slowly walked away. "He's going to come out an old man and gray headed," she remembers thinking.

That day in January 1996, her 32-year-old child began serving a 20-year sentence for killing his wife with a .357 magnum.

The couple had been going through divorce proceedings, but their relationship had seemed amicable, she said.

"Richard had never even had a speeding ticket," Mullins said. "He was a family man. He had a \$60,000-a-year job."

On July 19, 1995, a mother's worst nightmare began. In a moment, lives were changed forever.

"As a young mother I had tried to prepare my children for the worst things that could happen," she said. "In all my wildest imaginations, I could not have prepared for this."

Not only were Mullins and her husband, Carl, the parents of a criminal, but they were the victims of a crime, she said.

"We became 'those people,'" she said. But at the same time, she lost a daughter-in-law who was like a daughter, Mullins said. And they grieved for the 7-year-old granddaughter caught in the middle of it all.

Three years later, Mullins has worked through much of her pain. She speaks frankly of the aftermath of that fateful day in an effort to help others facing similar pain. And she is working to begin a ministry to families of prisoners.

"At first, I was in shock," she said. "I was totally devastated." For the first few days, she said she constantly prayed, "God, how can I get through this?" Later, she would learn to pray, "God, how can I live through this?" she said.

For the first few days, she said she wandered about in a daze.

"The grief of losing my daughter-in-law was almost greater than my son being in prison. I still had him; I didn't have her," she said. "When we buried her, it was like burying my own daughter."

"I couldn't read my Bible," she said. "The devil kept whispering, 'Now do you believe Romans 8:28? Can you really stand on "All things work together for good?"'"

But little things like just touching or sleeping with her Bible brought strength. Scripture verses she had committed to memory returned to her consciousness and brought comfort. Unsolicited money from family and friends freed the Mullins from the added financial burden and let her know people cared.

After a few days she was able to pray again. "I begged God to take this tragedy and glorify his name in any way he can," she said. "I told him, 'If someone puts a gun to my head, I will stand on Romans 8:28 even if costs me my life.'"

For Mullins that was the turning point.

"As I prayed, faith came," she said.

She returned to her middle-school teaching position that fall. Richard was released on a \$100,000 bond, provided by a member of a church of which Carl Mullins previously had been pastor.

She bravely faced the questions and advice of family, friends and colleagues. Two things she learned: "Don't ever say you know how someone feels if you haven't been there and don't tell someone to just turn it over to God."

Then came January 1996, when Richard began serving his sentence for second-degree manslaughter at Grant County Detention Center in northern Kentucky.

As Mullins watched him enter the jail, "it was like going to a closed casket funeral," she said. "You just go through the motions. You are totally unprepared."

The Mullins' first visit to the jail was just as bad as they tried to talk with their son through holes in a Plexiglas wall. "I couldn't hug him or touch him. It was a terrible ordeal," she said.

But the experience opened her heart to the needs of prisoners and their families, she said.

"Before, I didn't have any real empathy or compassion for them," she said. Now, when she saw inmates in orange suits and shackles, she saw humans with hurting families.

Even after Richard was transferred in April to Kentucky State Reformatory at LaGrange to await processing and incarceration at Northpoint Training Center in Danville, Mullins continued visiting inmates at the detention center.

"I had a great need to help others," she said. "I drew great comfort from helping others."

Her experience became her ticket in, she said.

"As soon as I say, 'My son is in prison; he killed his wife,' prisoners don't want to talk to anyone else," she said.

Then May came with Mother's Day and her daughter-in-law's birthday and reality hit with a bang, Mullins said.

"I came unglued," she said. "I thought I had been in recovery from the time it happened, but I had not even begun to grieve," she said. Instead, she had been in shock, which she now calls "God's cushion for survival."

That May, she said she began a climb, "like out of a hole." She had to grapple with the aftermath of the tragedy.

"I could tell myself my daughter-in-law was gone, but in my heart I really thought she was at her home," Mullins said. "She was gone and not coming back."

The needs of the granddaughter had to be addressed. Custody was awarded to the maternal grandmother without the necessity of going to court and the relationship remains warm and cordial, Mullins said "We have never had a harsh word. She wants us to be a part of our granddaughter's life," Mullins said.

And her son was locked up for the next 20 years.

That May, she said the healing process began. Today, she says she and her husband still have "a mother's and father's sad hearts," but they can move forward with their lives.

She still visits the Big Sandy Detention Center in Paintsville, Ky., as often as she can. Recently she spent more than an hour and a half with 12 juveniles in the jail for everything from school truancy to robbery, drug possession, driving under the influence of alcohol, and being a runaway. She found them eager to listen to her.

They wanted to talk with her about their bad experiences in life and how they felt people they trusted had let them down. They wanted to hear about her son. Some even wanted to talk about theological issues such as baptism. But the biggest issue on their minds, she said, was the people who attend church whom they consider to be hypocrites.

And for the past two years she has sensed God wanted her to tackle a bigger ministry, she said. When she saw a newspaper headline indicating a new federal prison will be built in Martin County, she felt she had her answer.

Now, she is working to begin Haven of Rest Ministries to provide housing and support for families who will travel from out of state for the three-day visits with inmates federal law allows. With blueprints and \$2,000 seed money already in hand, she expects a plot of land to be donated soon.

"I'm already looking past the building to what God is going to do there," she said. "I'm looking to the people who will be helped and the ministry that will be done."

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At 84, Baptist minister still 'doing his part'

By Rob Marus

COLUMBIA, Mo. (ABP) -- Two years ago, Glen Cantrell was attending a meeting of Little Bonne Femme Baptist Association in Columbia, Mo., when a new ministry opportunity presented itself to him. The association had experienced some controversy and division, and Cantrell was counseling David Goode -- then the association's director of missions -- on how to deal with it.

"He said, 'What does our association need to do?' And I said, 'Just get back to basics,'" Cantrell explained.

"I just started out the door, and I looked up at him, and I said, 'I'll do my part.' I didn't have anything to do; I had just helped a little old church up here that was dead get on its feet, and my wife had just died.

"He asked me to come back and say that again, so I said, 'I'll do my part.' But he had the camcorder with him this time; he was recording what I said for his report to the association. That night, I came into the meeting, and he

showed that clip, and here I was, saying, 'I'll do my part.' "I tell you, he made a regular spectacle out of me! But that was a challenge for everybody to get on the ball, you see."

They did get on the ball -- especially Cantrell. Soon afterward, Cantrell was driving down the highway, pondering the association's situation. "I said, 'I don't see why David doesn't get someone, and go up there and start a new work where there's lots of people -- where they're moving and growing.'

"And, just as surely as I hear you across the table here speaking to me, my passenger, who was sitting with me, and who was invisible, said, 'Why don't you help him yourself?' And I said, 'All right,' and I didn't stop."

Cantrell and Goode, with the assistance of several churches in the association, helped start Countryside Baptist Church, which meets in a converted garage in a growing semi-rural area 15 minutes north of Columbia on Old Highway 63. Glen became the mission's first pastor.

At the time, Cantrell was 82. Almost two years later, he passed Countryside's pulpit on to 27-year-old Neil Jones, who became pastor in June.

Doing his part is nothing new for Cantrell. In his career, he has helped dozens of small, rural churches that were experiencing hard times get back on their feet. Today, at 84, he shows no signs of stopping. He still attends services at Countryside, and continues to be a mentor to Jones, whom he has helped since Jones first surrendered to his calling to preach at age 21.

"Glen preached the sermon when I made my public decision to go into the ministry," Jones explained. At the time, Cantrell was filling the pulpit for Ashland Baptist Church in Ashland, Mo., where both were members.

"He has given me so much advice on how he has dealt with past situations, and he has given me real encouragement in tough ministry situations," Jones said. "It's a kind of team approach -- a lot of constructive criticism and a lot of affirmation."

Cantrell has mentored other young ministers. He considers it just as important as preaching to crowds of thousands or leading dozens of people to faith in Christ through a door-to-door witnessing campaign.

"I once went to pastor a church where the pastor who preceded me was a pre-millennial, dispensationalist nincompoop," he explained. "He had baptized 19 people the year before I got there. I told the people, 'I'm not going to do that.' Not because I couldn't -- I believe I could convince anyone to be baptized. But I'm more interested in convincing people to become Christians."

Cantrell took a winding road from his youth to his present "occupation," which he describes as being "a free-roaming troublemaker." He graduated from high school and spent two years at Southwest Baptist College (now University) in Bolivar, Mo., where his father was convinced he would be called into the ministry. Instead, he became a teacher and then a successful farmer.

But, at age 42, Cantrell discovered his father, by then 77, had missed his own calling to go into the ministry. Cantrell decided then that he must answer the call.

"I had a couple hundred head of short-horn cattle and 760 acres of land, and I had to give that all up and walk off without a dime," Cantrell said. He hasn't looked back.

Missouri Baptist Convention Bible study team leader Roger Hatfield has known Cantrell for many years. "He is a remarkable person, I have to admit," Hatfield said. "I mean, you name it, brother, he's done it. He just hasn't stopped to punt for a minute."

As Cantrell approached age 65, he was pastor of First Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Mo. He had told the congregation of his plans to retire a few months ahead of time. "I said, 'Now, I'm tired of making these doggone bulletins, and you're tired of me.' I had been there 15 years."

About that time, Cantrell recalled, an audible voice came to him one morning while he was eating his breakfast. "It said, 'You call [former Missouri Baptist Convention program coordinator] Webster Brown and tell him that you will be 65 and retire on May 1, 1978.'"

Cantrell did that, and Brown soon hired him as a small-church consultant for the state convention. Always a strong supporter of missions giving and work, Cantrell immediately went to work lobbying MBC-affiliated churches that in the past had never given money to the annual state missions offering.

"I started the 30th of June, and by the 30th of September, I had contacted 300 eyeball-to-eyeball," Cantrell said. "We ended up having a pretty good offering that year.

"After that, they said, 'Glen, we don't need you to go around anymore,' and I said, 'That's it; I just work myself out of a job every time.

"But that's the point!"

In the next few weeks, he will preach in five different churches across the state to encourage support of this year's Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering.

Cantrell said he would not be happy with himself if he slowed down. "Just coasting into retirement -- that's the worst thing in this world. For an old man to take a church that can support him and for him to just sit down and fold his hands and say, 'Now, this is the best we can do.' Oh, my! That really burns my skin."

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