

BAPTIST PRESS

servicing Southern Baptist state papers as a news service

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Dear Editor:

We're kind of happy to write you this letter about teamwork of two state editors and the Baptist Press Nashville office that resulted in a story.

One morning recently, we got a long distance call in Nashville from Gene Puckett, editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger. Gene had just talked with a friend in Dayton, learning from him that a suspect had been arrested in Phoenix, Arizona, and had reportedly confessed to breaking into Westwood Baptist Church in Dayton. (You recall the earlier story about the tragic death of George H. Riggs, pastor there, after he'd said he was going over to investigate a prowler in the church.)

We immediately called Editor Kelly Simmons of the Baptist Beacon in Phoenix, and asked him to verify any information he could on the case. Kelly did just that, calling us back first thing next morning with information that the youth arrested had broken into Westwood church, according to police, although not on the night of Riggs's death.

Many friends of the Riggs' such as Editor Chauncey Daley of the Western Recorder had been critical of the coroner's verdict in the Dayton case, ruling it a suicide after Dayton police said it occurred accidentally. Teamwork of Editor Puckett, Editor Simmons, and the Nashville office enabled Baptist Press to carry a story giving a factual account of another viewpoint on the tragic event.

The Baptist Press can also mention the helpfulness of Editor Erwin McDonald in Arkansas on the Billy Graham meeting there and Editor Gainer Bryan of Maryland with the bright feature of how a Baltimore Baptist church's Training Union inspired the church of another denomination to conduct its own evening services. These are not all the cases, just enough to show that the Baptist Press is your press, and that what one editor contributes helps all of us.

Special notes of appreciation also to Editors Looney, Hurt, and Owen for volunteering newsworthy material recently.

BAPTIST PRESS, Nashville office