

# BAPTIST FEATURES

PRODUCED BY BAPTIST PRESS  
NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

127 NINTH AVE., N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AL 4-1631

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January 25, 1963

**Editor's Note:** Southern Baptists are looking toward the Annie Armstrong Offering, used to give additional support to home missions. This feature tells of Courts Redford, who directs the Convention's home mission program. This is the third in a series on SBC leaders.

## Courts Redford Rides Train For Relaxation

By Mrs. Jackie Durham  
For Baptist Press

The train rumbled noisily down the track from Calhoun, Mo., to the new state of Oklahoma. A five-year-old lad peered out the window, excited, relishing every minute. It was his first train ride.

Samuel Courts Redford was on his way to a new home, the dugout near Granite, Okla., in which his parents, brother and sister would live till a house could be built above it.

His father did carpentry work and farmed the 160 acres he had claimed. However, they soon moved to another farm near Lone Wolf, Okla.

Long walks marked young Courts' early days. He sometimes walked six miles round trip to school. His sister, who taught in the one-room schoolhouses, started him in his education. Before he entered the first grade at seven, he could call off the multiplication tables through 15.

Samuel Courts Redford's strength was arithmetic; his difficulty was in speaking. He could not speak plainly, so spelling and reading were hard.

In spite of this, after his conversion at 12, it was only a few years until he stated his desire to be licensed to preach. The deacon to whom he made known this desire told him years later:

"We wondered how you could preach when you couldn't talk plain." Then, with a smile, he added, "We decided since nobody could understand you, you couldn't do any harm, so we went ahead."

The Redford farm was busy. Recreation matched work. The pasture doubled as a baseball diamond and the farm could also boast two croquet courts and a tennis court. Saturday night parties, hayrides and picnics completed the picture.

Courts Redford left home for the first time--headed for Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee. His intent: to look for employment; his promise: that his father would pay what he could not earn.

He washed dishes, set out many of the trees which now grace the campus, swept floors, worked in a downtown clothing store and in the college library. In the summers he worked in Sunday school extension, student evangelism, and made surveys for the Oklahoma Baptist Sunday school department.

He graduated with the highest number of honor points in the class--and met his future wife, Ruth Ford, who came from Henrietta, Tex.

Courts and Ruth were married after she completed her work at Shawnee and he received his master's degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia. While at Columbia, he served as student pastor of First Baptist Church.

He served as assistant pastor of First Baptist Church, Shawnee--doing educational work and leading special Junior worship and prayer meeting services. The pastor of the church was J. B. Lawrence, soon to be executive secretary of Missouri Baptists and later executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board for 25 years.

This job was followed by three years as professor of Bible and religious education at OBU. Then a leave of absence from the college allowed Redford to complete another master's degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he served as a student teacher.

After seminary, he became stewardship and Brotherhood secretary for Missouri Baptists and served an interim as executive secretary.

In 1930, he began 13 years as president of Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo. "Those years at the college were hard years. . . in many ways, they were the happiest years of my ministry," says Redford.

Redford, his wife and nine children were settled, happy and secure. The college was on the brink of a period of growth and prosperity, when a packet of home mission materials came from J. B. Lawrence. Redford assumed they had been sent for placement in the library; but shortly, Lawrence visited him. "Would you be my assistant?" he asked.

Redford would direct the student mission program and mission work in the outposts-- Alaska, Cuba, Panama and the Canal Zone, and would launch a rural mission program.

It was not an easy decision--but the Redfords moved to Atlanta. When Lawrence retired 10 years later, Redford was chosen to succeed him.

When Redford succeeded Lawrence in 1953, there were 1074 missionaries. The \$1,970,000 annual budget supported work which by now covered all the United States and some parts of North America.

Lawrence had helped pay the agency out of debt and give it a prominent place in Southern Baptist life. Redford helped to expand it and make it more efficient.

Its work included missions, evangelism, military chaplaincy, church loans, education (including publications) and promotion. A personnel department joined these to help select home missionaries. Those appointed had to meet stronger requirements.

Following direction from the SBC, Redford led in writing cooperative agreements with state Baptist conventions. All mission work possible was given to the states for direction. The Home Mission Board helped to pay them, secure personnel and develop mission strategy.

The new services offered were survey and special studies, church development, literacy, and three new areas of chaplaincy (hospital, institutional and industrial).

Today there are more than 2000 home missionaries. The budget for 1963 is \$5,025,000, exclusive of the construction of mission buildings.

Porter Routh of Nashville, executive secretary of the executive committee of the Convention, told the Home Mission Board at its last meeting, "Without any reflection on those who led in the past, I must say that home mission personnel today enjoy a status in the denomination greater than at any time I have known."

Despite the demands on him as executive secretary-treasurer, Redford also finds time to contribute regularly to Southern Baptist publications and has written three books. In 1955 Oklahoma Baptist University presented him with the doctor of divinity degree.

The thrill of the five-year-old lad is still with him. He frequently chooses the train in his travel to all parts of the country, even in this jet age. It is his relaxation. He enjoys the scenery, meets new people, and plans missions work.

His train travels sometimes provide fodder for his column in "Home Missions" magazine. Once when a loose switch tongue derailed a train, he wrote of the danger of persons who have "wagging tongues."

Courts Redford has said, "We cannot give to the world that which we do not possess." He firmly believes that America must be genuinely Christian if she is to succeed in missions abroad.

Cutline

January 25, 1963

Baptist Press

(With Courts Redford personality profile)

CHILD'S INTEREST--Courts Redford, father of nine, understands a child's interests. Here two girls learn about their part in home missions, under his guiding hand.  
(BP) Photo

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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January 25, 1963

### Decatur Baptist College Asked To Move To Dallas

DALLAS (BP)--Decatur Baptist College in Decatur, Tex., the world's oldest junior college, has been invited to move to Dallas to form the nucleus of the proposed Dallas Baptist University.

The invitation was extended by the board of trustees for Dallas Baptist University and the Executive Board of the Dallas Baptist Association.

Decatur trustees are expected to meet Feb. 14 to consider the invitation and to appoint committee members to study the possibility of relocating.

The two-year junior college, founded in 1898, is now located 61 miles northwest of Dallas. Fall enrollment last year was about 210 students.

If the Decatur trustees approve the move, the proposal will come before the Christian Education Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the 192-member Texas Baptist Executive Board, and the annual state convention for final approval.

Members of Decatur College's faculty, administration, and staff who choose to relocate in Dallas will become the nucleus of the Dallas Baptist University, if the proposal is approved.

A completely new name may be proposed for the school, to be located on a 100-acre site overlooking Mountain Creek Lake in southwest Dallas.

All moveable equipment, including library, books, science laboratory equipment, desks, etc., would be moved to the Dallas location.

A 14-point statement of principles and procedures for the negotiations was approved by the trustees of Dallas Baptist University and the Dallas Baptist Association Executive Board.

Details are to be worked out by a committee composed of three Decatur College trustees, three representatives from Dallas Baptist Association, the president and dean of Decatur Baptist College, and the superintendent of missions and president of the Dallas Association Executive Board.

The committee will work in consultation with the Texas Baptist Education Commission and legal counsel for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Construction on the school would begin by Dec. 1, 1963, and the campus should be ready for occupancy no later than June 1, 1965.

The brick-construction campus would initially include classrooms, offices, library, science laboratories, and facilities for 300-400 students. Opening date for the school would be no later than Sept. 1, 1965, the statement said.

Brewery Construction  
Starts Near Seminary

FORT WORTH (BP)--Construction has begun on a \$10 million brewery here which is located "within smelling distance of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary."

The three-story brewery, to be operated by Carling Brewery Co., will produce about 300,000 barrels of beer and ale annually. The beverages will be distributed in Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

Opposition to the brewery is still running high, especially among Baptist people who live in the area, said Cal Guy, opposition leader and professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

An appeal to the state Supreme Court has been filed asking for a ruling that would allow a local option liquor election in the precinct, but the high court has not yet elected to review the case.

Both district and appellate courts had ruled that there can be only one election a year calling for prohibition of liquor sales. The appeal to the Supreme Court asks for a reversal of the ruling.

"The verdict of the trial court held that the 'wets' have freedom to call elections as many as six times within the year providing they change the issue each time, but the 'drys' can call only one election," said Professor Guy.

"Equality before the law," he exclaimed. "Either the interpretation is in error or the law needs drastic changing," he said.

Guy contends that the dry forces were denied equal right before the law, and said that the Supreme Court appeal would seek to prove the voting rights of the "drys" were denied.

The Fort Worth Commissioner's Court had refused to approve petitions from the dry forces to hold a special precinct liquor option election in August of 1961 on the grounds that the precinct had voted for sale of beer and wine in a liquor election in September of 1960, and only one such election is allowed per year.

Dry forces wanted to hold the election before Aug. 27, 1961, the date that a new state law went into effect which would guarantee the brewery continued operation even though citizens in the precinct vote to prohibit sale of alcoholic beverages.

Guy contends that there has been "a denial of equal presentation of both sides in the Fort Worth news media, denial of equal standing before the law in calling the elections, and a denial of the voting rights of qualified citizens."

"If it can happen in the liquor question, which happens to have money and political influence in its corner," he said, "it can happen to every basic right the American citizen possesses, or thinks he possesses," he said.

Baptists In Mexico  
Using Radio-TV Well

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baptists in Mexico are making great progress in extending their outreach through radio and television, said Dave Cheavens, director of public relations at Baylor University here, after returning from a trip south of the border.

Cheavens, who gave four lectures on church public relations at a workshop in Mexico City sponsored by the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, praised Southern Baptist Missionary Roy L. Lyon for directing vital work in radio-television evangelism.

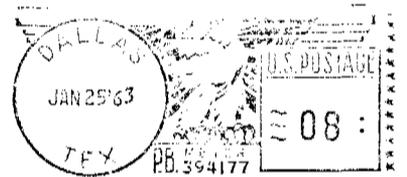
Cheavens said that the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Tex., is doing great work in producing and distributing literature of great variety, attractiveness and impact.

"Interest shown by Mexican Baptist leaders in improved public relations techniques and in the ministry of writing is indicative of their total evangelistic eagerness, and is both refreshing and encouraging," said Cheavens, who is also chairman of the Baylor journalism department.

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