

April 22, 1965

Adventurer Prepared
For Missions Career

By Mary Lane Powell

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--For a foreign mission career, Roy Wilton Hurst could hardly be more practically prepared. He can fly a plane, make mud bricks, trap a mountain lion and wrestle alligators.

Now, at the age of 26, with five years of trekking the continents of Africa and South America behind him, the blond outdoorsman has enrolled in New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to add theological education to experience.

"It's satisfying to know that my knowledge of the jungle and animals may be of use in a church-related vocation," said the soft-spoken Hurst. "For a while after I felt God calling me into church-related service, I was afraid that I had spent my previous years getting useless experience. Then the call to foreign missions became clear, and I began to see that there is a use for all our talents--no matter how varied."

Roy began the cultivation of his varied talents in his boyhood years in Meridian, Miss. "My home was in Mississippi, but my heart wasn't," said the world-traveler, whose teenage life was full of books about wild animals, and of glass jars containing a myriad of reptiles and insects. "I used to climb out of my bedroom window before anyone else was up and go hunting for small animals--sometimes carrying my gun, mostly without it."

Roy carried his animal interest to college and earned a degree in zoology from the University of Mississippi. Having exhausted his study of the wildlife in Mississippi, he decided to look for bigger game.

An interview with Arthur Jones, wild animal collector and television producer whose work is based in Slidell, La., put Roy on a steamer to Africa in 1961. During the next four years the Mississippian came face to face with most of the jungle animals he had read about in the past, and frequently his encounters were recorded on video tape. When Roy's work with Arthur Jones ended last December, he had starred in more than 70 television shows which composed two syndicated series--"Wild Cargo," and "Capture" produced by Jones. He had also learned to fly an airplane, and wrestle alligators.

"The last is just a sideline," said Roy, whose broad muscular frame belies his active career. "I started out helping the men move the alligators we had captured from one cage to another, and went on from there to tackle them in front of an audience."

Roy once confronted five 6-foot alligators 300 times within two weeks while performing at the Chicago Amphitheater. "This is one sport in which I would be a poor loser," he added. His very presence demonstrates his perfect win record.

But of all the encounters which Roy experienced during the years of jungle roving, the most outstanding to him had no association with wild animals. A family of Presbyterian missionaries whom he met in the Congo left an indelible mark on his memory. "This family did not know the meaning of the word 'fear.' Their dedication and invincible will left no room for this emotion."

Roy Hurst, a Christian since the age of 13, had already begun to feel the call to enter a church-related vocation. Now he began to explore the possibilities of mission service.

"When the missionary family was transferred to South America because of the Congo crises they invited me to come help them start an aviation-agricultural work in a pioneer area. Naturally I went," explained the adventurer.

For a year in interior Brazil, Roy lived in a thatch lean-to, slept on the ground, taught school, and acted as foreman for a brick-making crew which turned out 80,000 mud bricks in three months.

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Feature

"I owe a great deal to those missionaries for their part in crystalizing God's will for my life, but much credit also goes to Dr. Minton," said Hurst. Donald Minton, professor of Adult Christian education at New Orleans Seminary, became acquainted with Roy four years ago, and has continually expressed interest in the man and his consideration of foreign mission work.

"Roy is a man with sincere Christian convictions and ideals who has proven that he's every inch a man's man," said Minton. "He is of invaluable service to whatever cause he undertakes."

Used to undertaking causes, Roy Hurst finds sitting in classes all day a little confining. "I'm eager to get back to the outdoors, where you have the time to live and express yourself; yet I realize that my theological education is vital in order to fulfill God's plan in my life," said the candidate for a master of religious education degree.

And there's always summer, he adds, with a faraway look in his eye. While tied to the campus, however, he hopes to do a little flying, weight-lifting and a lot of studying for the time when he will face lost multitudes--and maybe alligators--again.

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(picture sent separately)

South Carolina Senator
Filled Church Offices

4-22-65

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--South Carolina's Democratic United States Sen. Olin D. Johnston, who died Easter Sunday in a local hospital, had served as Sunday school teacher, Training Union sponsor and deacon in Baptist churches.

Funeral services for Johnston, also once governor of South Carolina, were conducted April 20 at Southside Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S. C. He was buried near a Baptist church in Honea Path, S. C., where he made his profession of faith as a 10-year-old boy.

Sen. and Mrs. Johnston attended the 1964 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlantic City, N. J.

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Eugene Pratt Dies;
Evangelism Secretary

4-22-65

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Eugene T. Pratt, 54, director of evangelism for the Missouri Baptist Convention, died of a heart ailment Easter Sunday night at a hospital here. Dr. Pratt had suffered a severe heart attack about a week before his death while conducting an evangelistic meeting at Albany, Mo.

His condition, recognized from the first as serious, improved only slightly before turning critical late last week. A second attack apparently was the immediate cause of his death.

Pratt was serving the second time as Missouri's director of evangelism. His first term was from January 1957 to May 1962.

He left the position to become associate professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, for 2-1/2 years. He returned to the Missouri post Jan. 15.

He was once education director of Clifton Baptist Church and pastor of Weaver Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville. He came to Missouri as secretary of evangelism from an eight-year pastorate of Westview Baptist Church, Belleville, Ill.

His denominational service included six years as member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and six years on the directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Pratt received the bachelor of arts degree from William Jewell College (Baptist), Liberty, Mo.; the master of theology degree from Southwestern Seminary, and the doctor of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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He and Fama Ann Boyd of Plainview, Tex. were married in 1935. Four children also survive--Mrs. Lewis Miller, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a Baptist pastor's wife; Daniel, director of music of Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville; Carol Ann, student at Hannibal-LaGrange College (Baptist), Hannibal, Mo., and Philip E. Pratt, a high school senior.

Funeral services were held April 20, at First Baptist Church in Jefferson City.

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Florida Board Backs
Budget Sharing Plan

4-22-65

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The state mission board of the Florida Baptist State Convention voted here to keep up its plan to eventually divide its Cooperative Program budget each year on a 50-50 basis between state needs and the Southern Baptist Convention.

This recommendation followed a study which the board asked for.

The customary change for the 1965-66 budget year would be for 56 per cent to go to state causes and 44 per cent to the SBC. The convention has been increasing the amount to the SBC and decreasing the state percentage each year by 1 per cent, based on the total budget and the previous year's scale of division.

During the current budget year, for example, Cooperative Program income is being divided 57/43.

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Students Remember
Society's 'Forgotten'

4-22-65

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Students from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here minister to those who often are the "forgotten" members of society.

The state Central Prison in Raleigh, N. C.; Murdoch Center for the mentally retarded, rescue missions, and three homes for the aged are the scenes for this work carried on under the extension department of the Student Coordinating Council.

Twice each month a worship service in the chapel of Central Prison is led by seminary students. The attendance of the prisoners is voluntary, but the services are well attended.

Murdoch Center at Butner, N. C., is a residence for mentally retarded persons. Here Sunday school classes are taught by Southeastern students. Most classes are small enough to allow personal contact with each individual which is important in meeting the needs of these people. This is made a more valuable learning experience for the teachers as they meet with the chaplain following Sunday school to discuss their work.

At the rest homes, students bring devotional services and have conversational fellowship. Visits also are made to those who are confined to their beds.

Approximately 50 students are participating in these extension programs this year. For the past three years, 72 per cent of the students enrolled at Southeastern have been serving as pastors, assistant pastors, directors of religious education and directors of music in churches within a radius of 300 miles of the seminary.

The extension department volunteers receive no financial remuneration for their services. Lynn Holmes, a senior from Georgia and chairman of this work, says it provides an excellent opportunity for learning as well as service. "Students not only have a chance to help those who are often forgotten but frequently receive help and encouragement themselves."

Garland A. Hendricks, faculty advisor to the committee and director of field work for the seminary, says: "Such a ministry enables a student to relate truth and theory to the life and needs of people."

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(picture accompanies feature)

Baptist Courier Names
John Roberts Associate

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--John E. Roberts of Thomasville, N. C., has been elected associate editor and business manager of the Baptist Courier, official weekly newspaper of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Roberts will begin his new duties here July 1 as associate to Courier Editor S. H. Jones. Jones has been editor of the Courier since 1948.

A native of Shelby, N. C., the 38-year-old Roberts has been editor of Charity and Children, at Thomasville, since 1960. Charity and Children, with a 55,000 circulation, is weekly newspaper of the Baptist children's homes of North Carolina. Before 1960, Roberts was director of publicity at Gardner-Webb College (Baptist), Boiling Springs, N. C.

Roberts is a graduate of Furman University (Baptist) here and also of George Peabody College, Nashville.

The Courier has a circulation of about 80,000.

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Nine Missionaries
Appointed By Board

4-22-65

ATLANTA (BP)--The appointment here in April of nine missionaries to ministries in the United States brings the total under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to 2,452. Most of the missionaries work in cooperation with state mission boards.

The language missions department named Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Gruver --the first medical doctor appointed by the board--to serve in San Blas, Panama. Also appointed under the language missions department were Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Hsu to work in Berkeley, Calif.

The metropolitan missions department appointed Thomas H. Walker to Springfield, Ill.; Donald Burton to Saginaw, Mich., and Marilyn Ann Binkley and Richard Daniels to Covington, Ky.

Appointed under the urban-rural missions department was Jack L. Duke for work in Craig, Colo..

Gruver, a native of Kansas City, Mo., was educated at Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Medical College, Dallas. He has held pastorates in Mexican missions in Menard, Port Lavaca, and Calvert, Tex.

Jane Miller Gruver, appointed along with her husband, is a native of Arkadelphia, Ark. She is a graduate of Mary Hardin-Baylor College (Baptist), Belton, Tex., and the University of Arizona, Tucson, with a master of arts degree.

Hsu, named to work with the Chinese in Berkeley, Calif., is a native of Kwangtung, China. He was educated at the Alliance Bible Seminary, Hong Kong, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

Marcia Y. L. Kwoh Hsu is a graduate of the Alliance Bible Seminary; St. Paul Bible College, St. Paul, Minn., and Golden Gate Seminary. She was appointed along with her husband to work with the Chinese.

Walker will become superintendent of missions in Springfield, Ill. He is a native of Magee, Miss., and a graduate of Mississippi College (Baptist), Clinton, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Previous to his appointment, he held pastorates in Indiana, Mississippi and Illinois.

Burton, a native Texan from Stamford, was educated in two Texas schools--Texas Technological College, Lubbock and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. Prior to his appointment as a superintendent of missions, he held pastorates in Comanche and Weatherford, Tex.

Binkley, a native of Dover, Tenn., is to serve as a good will center worker. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Southwestern Seminary, with a master of religious education degree.

Duke was appointed as a mountain missionary to Craig, Colo. He was born in St. Joseph, Mo., and was educated at the University of Corpus Christi (Baptist) in Texas and Southwestern Seminary, with a master of religious education degree.

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S. L. Stealey Confined
After Coronary Attack

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Sydnor L. Stealey, 68-year-old retired president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, is confined to Wake Forest Hospital here after suffering a serious coronary attack.

Mrs. Stealey said it would be at least six weeks before he will be able to return to his normal schedule.

Since retiring as Southeastern's president two years ago, Dr. and Mrs. Stealey have made their home in Raleigh, a few miles from Wake Forest.

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Children's Home Sets
Race Admission Policy

4-22-65

By the Baptist Press

Missouri Baptist Children's Home in suburban St. Louis apparently is the first children's home among Southern Baptists to adopt a policy for admitting Negro children.

The board of managers of the home agreed that Negro children, coming through cooperating Missouri Baptist Convention churches, are eligible for admittance since the bylaws state that "it shall be the policy of the home to admit children on the basis of their need. . . . Needy Baptist children or children of Baptist background shall be given preference."

It was pointed out that at this time there are no Negro children under the care of the children's home.

The Missouri home, located at Bridgeton, has 304 children under its care. However 212 of them live in private homes across Missouri.

A check by Baptist Press news service on operations in other states shows that the Tennessee Baptist Convention operates four children's homes under a unified administration. One of the four homes, the Min-Tom Home at Chattanooga, is exclusively for Negro children. None of the homes has both white and Negro children.

These are apparently the only states in which Baptist homes care for Negro children now or will admit them. Nineteen of the 29 state Baptist conventions cooperating with the SBC operate children's homes.

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Castro Quoted: Won't
Shoot SBC Prisoners

4-22-65

The Associated Press reported April 19 that "Fidel Castro said the American Baptist preachers arrested last week and charged with spying for the United States would not be shot."

Western newsmen interviewed Castro while trailing him through a sugar cane field. He answered questions while swinging a machete harvesting the cane, an activity in which he had been engaged for the past week.

"This is not a case for shooting," he said about two Southern Baptist missionaries--Herbert Caudill, superintendent of Baptist missions in Cuba, and David Fite, teacher at the Cuban Baptist Theological Institute in Havana.

"The Baptists were arrested because they were conspiring. We do not arrest people because of religious reasons. Of course, it is up to the courts to decide, but we can prove conclusively that they were against socialism," the Associated Press reported Castro as saying.

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Late addition to home mission appointment story (page 4 of mailing)

Daniels, a graduate of the University of Missouri and Southern Seminary, will become the juvenile rehabilitation director in Covington, Ky.

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Cutlines

April 22, 1965

Baptist Press Ph to

Outline A

(goes with New Orleans Seminary feature)

GATOR WRESTLER--Little Janice Fain watches with great interest as Roy Hurst exhibits items collected during his global adventures which include trapping a mountain lion and wrestling alligators. Hurst, a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, is studying for a foreign missions career. Janice is the daughter of another student at the seminary. (BP) Photo

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Cutlines

April 22, 1965

Baptist Press Photo

Outline B

(goes with Southeastern Seminary feature)

'FORGOTTEN' REMEMBERED--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary students remember the "forgotten" of society when they minister to people at the Murdoch Center for the mentally retarded in North Carolina. Here a student from the Wake Forest, N. C., seminary teaches a Sunday school class at Murdoch. Other Southeasterners conduct prison services, preach in rescue missions and visit homes for the aged. (BP) Photo

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