



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 4, 1966

DA NANG, Viet Nam (BP)--A Marine Staff Sargent who teaches Bible classes in the USO between battles against the Viet Cong has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for gallantry in action.

Sgt. Harold L. Shipp of Newport, N.C., a Southern Baptist, was presented the medal here for heroic action while on operations in the Tinh Quang Province of Viet Nam last fall.

Brig. Gen. Lowell E. English, assistant division commander of the Third Marine Division, presented the Naval service's fourth highest award to Sgt. Shipp, along with a citation which read in part:

"With complete disregard for his own life, Marine Sgt. Harold Shipp volunteered for a 400 meter dash through swollen, sluggish rice paddies to help evacuate his wounded comrades.

"After helping evacuate several wounded by helicopter, it became obvious that darkness was rapidly approaching and the 'copters could no longer see to land. Shipp immediately ran the 400 meters to the company's base position. While under heavy enemy rifle and automatic fire, Shipp returned with smoke grenades.

"After marking the landing zone with smoke, Shipp then waded to the furthest front position, and in the face of continuing heavy enemy fire, assisted in carrying the casualties to the 'copters."

Humble and conservative, Shipp not only realizes the physical needs of the wounded, but he also knows the spiritual needs of his fellow Marines, said Cpl. Lanny Johnson, also a Southern Baptist and a worker in the Marine's Da Nang Press Center.

While on operations with Marine units, Shipp often finds moments when he can speak to individuals about their religious life.

He enjoys talking with his fellow man about the Lord and reading from the Bible. He has held two church services in one day while with units in the field, Cpl. Johnson reported.

When he's in Da Nang, Shipp teaches Bible class on Monday evenings at the USO.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Arthur Shipp of Wetumpka, Ala., Shipp's brother, Bobby Joe Shipp is a Baptist minister in Jackson, Ala.

Sgt. Shipp is a Marine motion picture photographer serving with the Combat Information Bureau, III Marine Amphibious Force.

The 32-year-old Marine not only works with the infantry, but also flies in Marine F4B Phantom jets, filming their flights against the Viet Cong.

He has flown 14 strike missions since arriving in Viet Nam last July, and is the only enlisted Marine ever to fly with the Phantom jets in Viet Nam.

Cpl. Johnson called him "a disciple in uniform."

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Photo of Shipp being mailed Monday to state Baptist paper editors.

Baylor Slates Bible,
Theology Conference

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University here will be host July 4-8 for the first "Baylor Ministers' Conference in Bible and Theology."

The conference, which is to become an annual event at the Baptist school, will be sponsored by the department of religion and the office of religious activities at Baylor.

Roy Harrell, chairman of religious activities, and Ray Summers, chairman of the religion department, said the emphasis will be "new life in the church" and will confront ministers with the mission of the church in a changing world. Harrell and Summers are co-chairmen for the meeting.

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Sorrow Underscores
Cuban Baptist Meeting

ATLANTA (BP)--Despite dropping statistics and imprisoned missionaries and pastors, apartists of western Cuba held their week-long annual convention in Havana "in very good spirits, but with a deep undertone of sorrow."

The report of the sessions came in a telephone conversation with Mrs. Herbert Caudill of Havana to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Caudill is the wife of the imprisoned superintendent of Baptist mission work in Cuba, Herbert Caudill, who with son-in-law David Fite, is jailed on charges of espionage.

Membership in the 90 churches was reported at 8,781, with a loss of 1009. The loss came mostly from those leaving Cuba.

With pastors in prison and other leadership leaving, baptisms reached a new low of only 136 for the year. This compares with 376 reported in 1964, which was then a decrease from other years.

Finances fell short of the Cooperative Program goal of \$60,000 as \$57,188 was given. Two years ago this figure was \$88,410.

"There was good attendance at the convention, even during the day, and at night the Calvary Baptist Church was packed with chairs in the aisles, and people standing in the balcony," Mrs. Caudill said in reporting night attendances of 2,000.

She considered the attendance especially good because the convention was held earlier than previously. The government set the time for Feb. 22-25. Other conventions have been held late in March.

Officers elected at the meeting were President Humberto Dominguez, pastor at Consolacion Del Sur in Pinar Del Rio and Vice President Raul Suarez, pastor at Colon in Matanzas Province.

Mrs. Caudill reported that 17 students were attending the Baptist Theological Institute in Havana, a drop of nearly 50 per cent, due in part to some students being drafted last year.

The convention met Tuesday through Friday, with early sessions given to Training Union, Sunday School, Brotherhood, and Woman's Missionary Union.

Herbert Caudill and David Fite, missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention, were arrested April 8 of last year, along with 51 Cuban Baptists.

"We are trying to keep on keeping on," Mrs. Caudill said when asked how she was.

"I've just been planning a birthday party for little Mark, he's one year old." Mark is the youngest of the three sons of the David Fites, and grandson of the Caudills.

She said their next visit to the prison (they are allowed one a month) would be the 16th of March.

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Heart Disease Cause Of
Most Baptist Worker Deaths

3-4-66

DALLAS (BP) --Two of every three deaths of Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees in 1965 were caused by some kind of heart disease.

According to statistics released by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, heart trouble claimed 67 per cent of the 122 lives of persons who were enrolled in the board's protection program.

This percentage is less than the 70 per cent high recorded in 1964.

There was a 15 per cent variation in deaths by heart trouble between retired and active ministers. Records show heart trouble claimed 73 per cent of the retired ministers and 58 per cent of the non-retired group. Heart disease was also the primary cause of disability.

Cancer continued in second place causing 14 percent of the deaths, followed by pneumonia, 8; diabetes, 5; auto accidents, 3; pancreatitis, parkinson's disease, and choleostomy, one per cent each.

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February SBC Giving
Continues '66 Climb

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to Southern Baptist Convention world missions causes during 1966 climbed to a record \$13.4 million for the first two months of the year.

The \$13.4 million figure includes \$9.5 million in designated contributions, primarily to foreign missions, and \$3.9 million in gifts through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget plan.

Total designated and Cooperative Program gifts for January and February exceeded contributions for the same period in 1965 by \$1.2 million, an increase of 10.5 per cent.

The February financial statement issued by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee here reported a 12.9 per cent increase in designated giving and a 5.1 per cent increase in Cooperative Program contributions, comparing the first two months of 1966 with the same period in 1965.

During the month of February, Southern Baptists gave \$1,792,277 through the Cooperative Program to support all SBC mission causes, and an additional \$5,790,170 to specific designated causes.

Compared to contributions for the same period in 1965, the two-month total of 1966 figures shows increases of \$190,417 in the Cooperative Program category and \$1,093,651 in designated gifts.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., has received a total of \$11.2 million during January and February, accounting for most of the \$13.4 million.

During February alone, the Foreign Mission Board received \$843,087 through the Cooperative Program and \$5,741,321 in designated contributions, most of it raised through the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offerings in Baptist churches.

The SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta received \$321,176 through the Cooperative Program during February, bringing its total receipts from the churches for 1966 to \$790,300.

Twenty-one Southern Baptist Convention agencies receive funds through the Cooperative Program unified budget plan, through which Baptist churches throughout the nation channel financial support to the total denominational program.

The figures released by the SBC Executive Committee include funds channeled to nationwide and world-wide Baptist mission efforts, but do not include amounts given to support local and state-wide Baptist programs.

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South Carolina Names
Sunday School Assistant

3-4-66

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--The Executive Committee of the South Carolina Baptist Convention's General Board has appointed M. Rogers Snipes of Greer, S.C. as associate in the convention's Sunday School department.

Snipes, pastor of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Greer, will assume the position March 21, succeeding B. B. Jernigan of Columbia who retired Feb. 28 after 25 years' service.

Snipes will be responsible for promotion of Sunday School work through the associations and for adult work, according to John K. Durst, director of the South Carolina Baptist Sunday School department.

A native of Georgia, Snipes is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and is former pastor of Baptist churches in Mississippi and North and South Carolina.

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Seminary Extension
Reports Record Year

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Seminary Extension Department of the six seminaries in the Southern Baptist Convention broke significant records during the 1964-65 school year, according to a report released here.

Seminary Extension Department Director Ralph A. Herring of Nashville said that the growth of the adult education program in the denomination means that Southern Baptists are beginning to see how much good can come from disciplined study in depth.

Herring reported that last year, 3,784 men and women enrolled in 5,935 courses and studied under 334 qualified teachers through the Seminary Extension's program of adult theological education.

Figuratively speaking, the campus stretched across the Southern Baptist Convention in 161 centers operating in churches, student centers, college classrooms, and other convenient places, said Herring.

In addition to those enrolled in classroom courses, 552 other students studied 839 courses by correspondence. Their lesson assignments were graded by ten instructors.

During the year, a total of 43 certificates were awarded, representing the completion of 16 courses, said Herring.

The report reflects an increase over the previous school year of 33 centers, 1,271 students, and 1,602 course enrollments.

Seminary Extension Department curriculum is now being used by Southern Baptist Brotherhood organizations among laymen, leading to Brotherhood certificates and opening study towards a Seminary Extension Department certificate with a major in missions.

Herring said that the records represented the best increase numerically for one year during the history of the Seminary Extension Department, and that he was very pleased with the response.

Much of the credit should go to the four associates working on the field, said Herring. The four men work with offices in St. Louis, Mo.; Jackson, Miss.; Fort Worth, Tex.; and Lawndale, N. C.

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BULLETIN:

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--A devastating tornado that took the lives of more than 50 persons and injured 400 others smashed the Woodville Heights Baptist Church here to rubble.

No one was injured at the church, first reports indicated, but the pastor feared for several hours that his wife and children might have been injured or killed by the twister. They turned up later during the night safe and unharmed.

BAPTIST PRESS WILL FILE FULL REPORT, PERHAPS WITH PHOTO, MONDAY, March 7.

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