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March 16, 1966

**Baptist Chaplain Contends  
With Noise In Viet Nam**

DA NANG, Viet Nam (BP)--For most servicemen stationed here, assignment to the Republic of Viet Nam brings a radical change in their daily routine.

But Cmdr. Jonathan C. Brown, a Southern Baptist chaplain from Johnston, S. C., has to contend with a problem most ministers never face---noise.

During his tour of duty just prior to assignment in Viet Nam, Chaplain Brown was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Shangri La. There he had to counsel his troops over the roar of jet engines.

Here, as chaplain for the Third Marine Regiment, he has to compete with the roar of helicopters, the booming of artillery, the crack of rifle fire, and the noise of passing vehicles.

The noise factor is one few ministers back home would ever even stop to think about, he says. But the real problem is not the physical surroundings, but the task of ministering to the spiritual needs of men--some of them still boys--who are facing death constantly.

What do you say to a man who has just lost his leg? Or to a man who is breathing his last breaths, dying of a sniper's bullet?

"The problems a chaplain is faced with are no different here than anywhere else," Cmdr. Brown said. "Most, and the biggest ones, fall in the religious field. Marines facing death at any moment need and seek religious guidance."

The experience, one that all of the 61 Southern Baptist chaplains in Viet Nam face, is nothing new for Cmdr. Brown, a veteran of 21 years with the Chaplain Corps. His latest is one of several tours with the U.S. Marine Corps including one during the Korean conflict.

Chaplain Brown entered the service in 1945 after graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He is also a graduate of Furman University (Baptist), Greenville, S. C.

"This war is a little different," observes the chaplain. "Everyone is concerned with civil affairs."

Whenever he gets the chance, Chaplain Brown accompanies the regiment's civil affairs team to local hamlets where they pass out soap, CARE gifts and dispense medical aid.

"It's important to be a friend of the people, and let them know we are for them," he said. In the future, Chaplain Brown hopes to do much more in this area, especially in the fields of hospitals and orphanages.

Since arriving in Viet Nam last January, the Chaplain has been kept busy with his charges. In addition to his participation in civil affairs and work with the personnel of regimental headquarters, he also regularly visits the men on the front lines.

Although it is unusual for the chaplain to be assigned to Viet Nam instead of the U.S. after completing a tour of duty at sea, he said he is "glad to come because of the need."

West Virginia Baptist  
Convention Delayed

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (BP)--Southern Baptists in West Virginia will not organize into a state Baptist convention this year.

Instead, a special missions thrust is planned that should bring their number of churches and membership to the point that a convention can be formed in the near future.

The announcement came from a meeting here of the Southern Baptist West Virginia missions committee.

"We've had to take a realistic look at our progress," said Carl Townsend, chairman of the committee. "There are not 50 churches with a membership of 12,500 who are presently willing to organize the convention this year as we had hoped.

There are more than 50 Baptist churches with a membership in excess of 13,500 in West Virginia but only 42 have committed themselves to affiliation with the new convention.

These are requirements made by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in cooperation with other agencies, for financial assistance.

"We have met all other requirements--mission giving, a regional organization, and an established operating fund," he said.

Townsend, pastor of the Witcher Baptist Church at Belle, W. Va., said they are strengthening the missions committee and organizing into sub-committees which would operate in many ways similar to a convention.

"Part of our problem has been the scattered and fragmented Baptist work," he added. Churches are affiliated with four neighboring state conventions, and denominational assistance often comes through groups in Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, and Ohio.

He thinks the stronger missions committee will definitely help.

Townsend indicated special efforts in evangelism, missions, and education should enable them to meet their goal.

"We are well pleased with the direction in which we are moving and the progress we are making," he said. "We have a sense of unity we have not had before, and we know where we are going.

"There was some disappointment when we realized that we could not organize into a convention, but we have faced it realistically and have a renewed sense of mission."

West Virginia reports a population of nearly two million, of which a million and a quarter are unchurched. There are 730 American Baptist Churches in the state with a membership of 126,000.

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Three Midwestern Profs  
Take Sabbatical Leave

3-16-66

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Three professors at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here will go on sabbatical leave during the coming school year, one of them to study in England.

Roy Honeycutt, professor of Old Testament interpretation and Hebrew, plans to spend a year at Oxford University in England, studying under a grant by the American Association of Theological Schools.

George Thomason, professor of New Testament interpretation and Greek, will study at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., for the year; and C. DeWitt Matthews, professor of preaching, plans to take one semester to study in the Chicago area.

Midwestern Seminary trustees have authorized sabbatical leave for "deeper study, research, or writing" to faculty members who have taught for six years.

Seminary professors contribute regularly to a Sabbatical Leave Fund to defray expenses of the study. The fund is also open to gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations or other groups who want to underwrite sabbatical leave programs. Continued salary support is given by the seminary during sabbaticals.

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Church is Segregation  
Stronghold, Prof Says

By Joan Harvison

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--A Baptist seminary professor from Fort Worth charged here that the church is the last stronghold of segregation.

Addressing a racially-mixed group of some 200 persons attending the first state-wide Christian Life Conference sponsored by Oklahoma Baptists, William Pinson of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary declared that "a New Testament church is one that is open to all races."

"In the face of revolutionary changes, Christians must make a decision" about the race question, said Pinson, professor of Christian ethics at the Baptist seminary in Fort Worth.

"For centuries the white man has lorded it over the Negro. Now, after years of struggle, they are reaching the top of their painful climb, and the white man is cringing at what he sees."

Three basic approaches have been taken by Southern Baptists in the area of race as well as changing views on morality, economics, and separation of church and state, according to Pinson.

The 31-year-old professor summed up the three approaches as "withdrawal, conformity, and transformation."

"Those who advocate withdrawal from the issues are akin to atheistic existentialists and beatniks, who say 'live only for today,'" Pinson maintained.

"Because we cannot make a perfect world, it should not hinder us from trying to make a better world," he admonished.

On the other hand, efforts to transform the world, primarily through evangelism, also have their drawbacks, according to Pinson.

"Sometimes the most thoroughly evangelical church is also the most thoroughly racist," he pointed out.

"The way taught by Christ is to become part of the world in a redemptive way," Pinson concluded.

"It is just as much an act of devotion to serve on the school board as it is to serve on the board of deacons.

"It is just as much an act of Christianity to be honest in one's business as it is to serve as chairman of the finance committee.

"We tend to judge a person's Christianity on the basis of how much he does in the church," he chided.

Misplaced emphases within churches drew sharp rebuke from Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn.

"This is a time when we are talking about the sinfulness of dancing when a great number of our high school girls are taking birth-control pills," he pointed out.

"Too long there has been an emphasis on psychological experience to the exclusion of emphasis on Christian character," he continued.

The Commission official pointed out that billions of dollars are being spent in the United States on gambling and liquor.

Getting down to a finer point, Valentine poked fun at the cigarette habit. "Smoking won't send you to Hell, but it will send you to Heaven quicker than you had expected to go," he quipped.

Valentine also charged that evangelical groups today have "a religion without morals."

"Christian morality is not an elective. It is a requirement," he observed.

Alluding to the Biblical injunction that Christians are "the salt of the earth," Valentine said, "It is time to get our religion out of our stained glass salt sacks and into the area of race relations, morality, government, and all these other things we've been talking about."

"And let this salt be the preserving factor without which this world would be destroyed tomorrow," he said, emphasizing that "there is no time to lose."

In an earlier address, Ross Coggins, communications director for the SBC Christian Life Commission, called for repentance, a recovery of compassion, and a rediscovery of love in the matter of race relations.

"The race conflict should teach us repentance," the former missionary to Indonesia admonished, adding that "we have been putting this off for centuries now."

"It's time we repented of our share in perpetuating oppressive structures until we have forced the down-trodden to believe that their only recourse is in the streets."

"Let our repentance be unswerving, with no trembling for our institutional life, our great numbers, or our wealth."

Coggins drew a number of "amens" from the audience when he said, "Too long we have been content to send hired agents to do at the ends of the world what we refuse to do at our own front doors."

"Too long we have romanticized our caring at long distance while we grew callous in our outlook on the running sores of our own cities."

Probably the reason Southern Baptist have provided "no clear counsel on the race problem," Coggins theorized, "is an uncertainty about what should be done."

"In traditional Baptist fashion we have tried to look at both sides of the issue: the conservative side and the ultraconservative side."

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Communication Voted As  
Name For HMB Division,

3-16-66

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has changed the name of its division of education and promotion to the division of communication.

The name change was not accompanied by any reorganization or personnel changes.

"We sought a more definitive name for our work," said L.O.Griffith of Atlanta, director of the division.

"The former name of education and promotion did not immediately convey our main purpose," he said.

The division of communication includes departments of audio-visuals, editorial services, and missionary education, and services of art, pictures, and circulation.

"All possible modern media are used to communicate our message with others," Griffith said. "We like the new name because of its use in this sense in the Bible, because it is descriptive, and because many others now use the term."

The division of communication is one of six divisions of the mission agency. The others are evangelism, chaplaincy, missions, church loans, and administrative services.

"The former name actually came from two former departments that became a part of the division when it was created in 1959--promotion and missionary education," added Griffith, who has been director of the division since it was created.

He also said the former promotion department is now called the department of audio-visuals, another move toward making names descriptive of work done.

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Oklahoma Baptist Team  
Wins Basketball Crown

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A Southern Baptist school reigns as king of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) basketball tournament after a resounding thumping of Georgia Southern, 88 to 59, in the championship contest.

Oklahoma Baptist University, led by Al Tucker, voted the tournament's most valuable player, won their fourth straight one-sided victory to capture the title they lost last year in the final contest.

Ahead by only 38 to 32 at the half, the OBU Bisons shot an amazing 71 per cent in the second half to win over Georgia Southern, defeating them by almost the same margin that they lost in the final championship game last year to Central of Ohio.

Steering the Bisons of Oklahoma to their 1966 title was Tucker, the 6-foot, 8-inch beanpole who is the son of a former Harlem Globetrotter basketball player.

Tucker, the top scorer in the tournament for the second straight year, racked up 180 points in the five tournament games, with 32 points as his smallest total for one game.

Last year, Tucker led the tournament with 125 points. His total of 305 during the tourney makes him the sixth player in the 29-year history of the tournament to score more than 300 points. He is number three in the all-time scoring record, and as a junior this year, he could return next year and seal down the number one spot. The current record is 451 points.

Tucker and R. B. Lynam, the OBU forward who scored 99 points, made the tournament all-star team.

The tourney sweep brought the Bison's season record to 26 wins, 7 losses.

Two other Southern Baptist schools entered the NAIA tournament here, and one of them lost to OBU in the quarter-finals.

Carson-Newman College of Jefferson City, Tenn., was seeded number two prior to the meet, but the hot OBU team humbled Carson-Newman 87 to 62 in the quarter finals, as Tucker scored 32 points and entranced the crowd with some behind-the-back dribbling.

The other Southern Baptist team, Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Tex., fell in the first round to fourth-seeded Georgia Southern, 80 to 85 in overtime. Howard Payne's Danny Faubion sank a 55-foot shot as the buzzer sounded to tie the score 72-72, but the Georgia Southern rivals went on to win in the extra period.

On the way to the title, OBU tamed California Western, Grambling of Louisiana, and Central Michigan.

Oklahoma Baptist University is the first Southern Baptist College team to win the NAIA Tournament.

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For Release March 21.

Don Rutledge Takes  
HMB Photographer Post

3-16-66

ATLANTA (BP)--Don Rutledge of Murfreesboro, Tenn., a photographer and a Baptist minister, cemented his two professional interests by accepting a position with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

The agency named him its photographer in the audio-visuals department, headed by J. C. Durham of Atlanta.

Rutledge presently works professionally for the Black Star Photo Agency of New York and also is pastor of the Maney Avenue Baptist Church in Murfreesboro.

"I've always considered both preaching and photography as central in my ministry. Each is a way of presenting the same message," he said.

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Backing up the statement is the fact he will not start his work in Atlanta until June 1 when he finishes a 10-country tour of West Indian, Central, and South American Countries.

"I'll be photographing churches and religious work in these areas on a Black Star assignment," Rutledge commented.

He expects some of the pictures to turn up in a book on missionaries and missions, which a New York publisher has asked him to illustrate.

Rutledge has majored on photographing religious subjects, especially mission fields, ever since getting his first camera as a teen-ager. He has seen his pictures in "Life," "New York News," "New York Times," "This Week," "Parade," and many of the national religious publications.

He is a native of Smithville, Tenn., and no relation to Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board.

A pastor since he was 17, he has served congregations at Chattanooga, Christiana, and Murfreesboro, all in Tennessee. He graduated from Temple College and Temple Seminary at Chattanooga.

He married Lucille Marie Summerlin of Anniston, Ala., and they have two sons.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Please note present tense of this story. Dates for the crusade are March 13-April 17.

80 Aussies Conduct  
Missouri Revivals

3-16-66

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Eighty Baptist ministers from Australia arrived here to conduct five weeks of evangelistic crusades in 300 Missouri Baptist churches.

Known as the Australia-Missouri state-wide crusade, the evangelistic effort is a follow-up to an evangelistic crusade held in the spring of 1964 when 160 Baptist ministers from Missouri went to Australia for a month-long crusade in 400 Australian-Baptist churches.

The 1964 crusade in Australia was one of the first of its kind, and the crusade in Missouri during March and April is one of the first of its kind ever carried out in America by ministers from another country, according to Luther B. Dyer, evangelism director for the Missouri Baptist Convention with offices here.

The campaign is divided into four series of meetings. The first series is being held in Central and Southwest Missouri (March 13-20); the second is in Central and Southeast Missouri (March 20-27); the third is in East and Northeast Missouri (April 3-10) and the fourth is in West and Northwest Missouri (April 10-17).

Midway during the crusade, the Baptist pastors of Missouri will join the Australian ministers in a week-long evangelistic conference at Windermere Baptist Assembly on the Lake of the Ozarks.

During the 1964 crusade in Australia, more than 9,000 persons made personal commitments and decisions in the Baptist churches of Australia.

The crusade also resulted in "strengthening the natural ties between Australia and America" and wide publicity of its spiritual impact, said James W. Hackney, chairman of the Australia-Missouri Crusade Committee.

Hackney, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Sikeston, Mo., headed the group of Missouri ministers who conducted the crusade in Australia. He indicated that similar results are expected from the crusade in Missouri.

Nearly all of the visiting evangelists are pastors of Baptist churches from six of the seven states of Australia--New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia. The others are denominational leaders.

The churches and organizations they serve in Australia are underwriting their travel expenses to and from America.

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After five weeks in Missouri, the Australian preachers, eight of them accompanied by their wives, will return home by way of England, Rome, Athens and the Holy Land.

Many of the Australian pastors were once successful bankers, musicians, lawyers, sheep and cattle ranchers, and professionals in other fields before entering the ministry. Only a few have ever visited the United States.

They were welcomed to this country at a reception attended by 350 Baptist leaders from throughout Missouri at a restaurant in North Kansas City, Mo., and at a luncheon at Swope Park Baptist Church in Kansas City followed by an orientation meeting.

Some of the visitors also toured Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City before going to their first assignments.

Principal speakers at the reception were Earl Harding, executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention; Ernest H. Watson and Bill Tichenor of New South Wales, Australian directors for the crusade. Greetings were brought on behalf of Gov. Warren E. Hearnes of Missouri and the city council of Kansas City.

Members of the crusade committee for Missouri Baptists are: W. Ross Edwards, pastor of the Swope Park Baptist Church, Kansas City; Ralph M.G. Smith, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Kirksville; W. T. Holland, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Cape Girardeau; Paul Weber, pastor of the Hamlin Memorial Baptist Church, Springfield; and Harding.

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