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Pastor Calls Results  
Of Vandalism "Blessing"

490

HAWTHORNE, Calif. (BP)--"Vandals" broke 73 windows in a brand-new church building at Ocean Gate Baptist Church here, but the end result has become "one of the greatest blessings this church has ever experienced."

The night before dedication services for the new two-story educational building and remodeled auditorium, the culprits broke a large window which had been dedicated to one of the architects, Norman Short, who died three months before completion of the building.

The next night, after dedication services had been held, the youngsters struck again, breaking 72 more windows, strewing glass all over new pews, scarring pulpit furniture, and making a mess of the entire church building.

"The church must accept its part of the blame for this," said Pastor Justin Wales as he gazed unbelievably at the wreckage of the new building the next day.

"We didn't get the message of Christ into the homes," he said, "or we might have prevented this."

The story became big news in the Los Angeles papers. Suddenly the little church, which according to the pastor, "had hardly been noticed in the 15 years it has been here" found itself in the limelight.

The result was "some of the best publicity for our revival we have ever had," declared Wales. "People from all over town began calling to find out what time the revival starts."

The church was beginning a revival with Joe Kaiser of Houston, Tex., as evangelist. Wales said that people who had never heard of Ocean Gate Baptist Church before planned to attend because of the incident.

Money came from people throughout the community to help pay for the damage. One little old lady gave the pastor an envelope full of pennies, nickles, and dimes totalling \$2.37. It was all she had in the house, but she wanted to help pay for one of the windows.

Everyone was asking "Who in the world would do such a dastardly deed," said Wales.

The answer proved to be almost as much of a shock as the deed itself, for the culprits turned out to be two little boys, ages nine and 12.

"What are you going to do with them," a reporter asked the pastor.

"Oh, they're here with me now," Wales said. "They've been helping me clean up, and now they're helping me make a poster for the revival."

"We just couldn't throw them to the wolves. They didn't even know why they did it," he said.

Wales added that the incident had given the church an opportunity to get into the homes of the boys and talk with their parents. "We believe before this thing is over, we'll have the whole family for Christ," he said.

"The boys have said they want to be friends with the preacher, the church, and with Jesus," Wales continued.

He added that while the whole thing was a shock to the church and community, "it has turned out to be one of the greatest blessings this church has ever experienced."

The Ocean Gate church had an average Sunday School attendance of about 25 two years ago, and now attendance is over 100 and offerings have tripled.

The two-story educational building and the remodeling job on the auditorium cost about \$65,000, bringing total property valuation to about \$200,000. The church can now accommodate 340 in Sunday School.

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Ten nationalities are represented in the church membership. The contractor for the new building is a Filipino, whom the pastor baptized recently. His name is Julius Caesar Augusta Mopano. Wales believes he is the only pastor who has ever "baptized Julius Caesar."

And what about the two little boys? They'll be in Sunday School next Sunday.

-30-

By Polly McNabb

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Baptist Named Air Force  
Deputy Chief of Chaplains

210

4-12-66

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist native of Mississippi, Chaplain (Colonel) William L. Clark has been nominated as deputy chief of chaplains for the U. S. Air Force, effective Sept. 1, 1966.

Chaplain Clark has also been nominated for the temporary rank of brigadier general.

Prior to 1951, he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ellisville, Miss. He previously was pastor of Crosby Baptist Church, Crosby, Miss., and Fair River Baptist Church, Brookhaven, Miss.

A graduate of Mississippi College (Baptist) in Clinton, Miss., Chaplain Clark attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Another Southern Baptist, Chaplain Robert Taylor, is chief of chaplains for the U. S. Air Force, but has announced plans to re-enter the civilian ministry this summer.

Chaplain Clark entered the military chaplaincy in 1941 and served during World War II in the South Pacific, the Philippines, and Okinawa. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict and has remained on active duty since that time.

In 1959 he was assigned to the office of the Secretary of Defense where he served as executive director of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board. After three years, he was transferred to the Air Force Chief of Chaplains Office as head of the personnel division.

A native of Petal, Miss., he and his wife have two daughters, one son, and five grandchildren. He and his wife live in Arlington, Va.

-30-

Photo being mailed to state Baptist papers.

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Coleman Will Join  
Hebron Expedition

126

4-12-66

FORT WORTH (BP)--Robert O. Coleman, associate professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, has been named to represent the seminary on the American expedition to Hebron as archaeological excavation team member this summer.

Hebron, located 25 miles south of Jerusalem, is the last major Biblical site in the Holy Land still unexcavated extensively. It is the traditional burial site of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob, and was the first capital city of King David.

About 30 persons will make up the expedition, headed by Philip C. Hammond, archaeology professor at Princeton Theological Seminary.

In addition to Coleman, six students at Southwestern Seminary here have applied to go on the expedition.

The excavation team will also be made up of representatives from Princetown Theological Seminary, Baldwin-Wallace College of Ohio, and the University of South California.

-30-

April 12, 1966

-3-

Baptist Press

First Baptist Deacon  
Appointed Astronaut

294

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP)--Major William Reid Pogue of Sand Springs, Okla., one of the nation's newest astronauts, is possibly the first Baptist deacon to be named to America's growing space team.

The 36-year-old Pogue is a 1951 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and was ordained a deacon by University Baptist Church, Stillwater, Okla., in the late 1950's. Pogue is currently a member of a Southern Baptist Church in Edwards, Calif.

The Oklahoman was among the 19 astronauts chosen by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in April.

The newest team--known as "fifth generation astronauts" because they are the fifth group --is the largest ever selected at one time by NASA.

New astronauts will begin training May 1 at NASA's Space Center near Houston.

Pogue earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) with a major in math and a minor in physics. University records show that he was a member of the track squad, a "B" Club member and also belonged to the Science Club.

A few months after graduating from OBU, he joined the Air Force and then earned a master's degree from Oklahoma State University in 1959.

In 1956, Pogue was selected for a place on the Thunderbirds, Air Force acrobatics fliers, and served for a year as a "solo" performer.

After time out for studies, he joined the instructing staff at the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, teaching math and physics. Later he served on an exchange basis with the Royal Air Force in Britain.

The new astronaut is the son of the Alex W. Pogue of Sand Springs, Okla.

The elder Pogue is principal of Lake Elementary School. Both parents are members of Broadway Baptist Church, Sand Springs.

The astronaut's wife is the former Nita Dittmar, daughter of Roy Dittmar, pastor of First Baptist Church, Cromwell, Okla., and Mrs. Dittmar.

The Pogues have three children--Billy, 12; Layna, 10; and Tommy, 8.

A younger brother, Jerry, sports writer for the Tulsa World, recalls that the future space flier started his flying career at an early age. It seems that Pogue decided to entertain neighborhood youngsters with a bicycle flight.

He placed a two-by-six plank on a tub for a runway and wheeled his bike up on the board and into the air. The adventure ended after a couple of flights. He landed off center and broke an arm.

-30-

Baptist Chaplain  
Named Flag Officer

4-12-66 112

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)--Ray C. Tindall, pastor of the East Hill Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Fla., and a Naval reserve chaplain on inactive duty, has been selected for Flag Rank, effective June 1, when he will become the only Flag Officer in the Inactive Naval Reserve Chaplain Corps.

Chaplain Tindall, a native of South Carolina, entered the Naval Reserve Chaplaincy in 1942. He served on active duty during World War II, and later during the Korean Conflict.

He will be promoted to the rank of Flag Officer, or Rear Admiral, upon the retirement of Chaplain Roland D. Driscoll.

Chaplain Tindall is a graduate of Wofford College in Spartanburg, S. C., and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He is married to the former Mary Louise Cookley of Owensboro, Ky., and they have one son.

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