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July 16, 1968

Dyal Receives High  
Medal From Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (BP)--The director of the Peace Corps for Colombia, and former Southern Baptist leader, Bill Dyal, has received a top medal from the Colombian government in appreciation for the work of the Peace Corps.

Dyal was director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville, Tenn., before coming to Bogota to direct the Peace Corps operation here about one year ago.

The president of Colombia, Carlos Lleras Restrepo, presented the medal personally to Dyal during a day of national tribute to educators.

It is believed to be the first time in Colombian history that such a high award has gone to a North American.

The gold medal, called the Francisco de Paula Santander award, was established several years ago to honor people and organizations who have distinguished themselves in service to education or who have made important contributions to the national culture.

Presented in a televised ceremony at the Presidential Palace, President Lleras pinned the medal on Dyal and paid tribute to the work of the Peace Corps.

A newspaper in Bogota observed that it was fitting that the medal, although honoring the collective contribution made by Peace Corps throughout the country, was delivered to Dyal personally. "He himself is a symbol of the new Peace Corps perspective which in fact evoked the award."

Dyal became the Peace Corps director here after many years as a Southern Baptist missionary, field representative in Latin American for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, associate in the board's personnel office, and as a top staff member of the denomination's social action agency, the Christian Life Commission.

In Colombia, he directs the work of about 650 Peace Corps Volunteers, the third largest number of Peace Corpsmen serving in any nation in the world.

Recently, Peace Corps Director Jack Vaughn in Washington told Dyal that the Colombian Peace Corps program was the smoothest, best run, and most effective Peace Corps program in the world.

One of the innovations he began in the Colombian Peace Corps was what the volunteers call a "Dyalogue," in which the 30-member staff in Bogota headed by Dyal has a "dialogue" session with volunteers in a specific area to open communications and discuss mutual problems.

In an interview here, Dyal said he found great fulfillment in his Peace Corps service, but added that it is a "man-killer job." He expressed confidence in the caliber of highly idealistic volunteers who identify with the Colombian people and have a deep desire to help others.

"The real genius of the Peace Corps is its humanity, and its fight against inhumanity," Dyal said. "This is basically Christian," he added.

The Peace Corps is seeking to establish the belief that order and reason, love and justice are mutual; and that man is man, and not a machine, he said.

He described the Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia as "the man for others," and this is the kind of insight into what God intended man to be. Dyal said that the word "impossibility" doesn't seem to be in the vocabulary of most Peace Corps volunteers.

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Asked how many of the 650 Peace Corps volunteers in Colombia are Christians, Dyal replied that there was no statistical information available since religious views and preferences are never questioned. Many, he added, are motivated by concerns that are basically Christian, although few have any connection with organized religion as such.

Two of Dyal's top staff members are Baptists--Jim Hooper, the executive officer who attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth; and Ed Coor, regional Peace Corps representative in Cali, Colombia, who recently ended his term of service and returned to a foreign service political post in Washington.

Two other former Southern Baptist leaders are Peace Corps directors in Latin America. Weston Ware, former associate in the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, is director of the Peace Corps in Panama; and Paul Bell, former Southern Baptist missionary in Latin America, is Peace Corps director in Chile.

BP Photo showing Bill Dyal and the president was mailed to Baptist state papers earlier.

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Knight To Edit New  
Publication Of BSSB

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP)--George Knight, assistant editor of the Western Recorder here, has resigned to help establish and then edit a new publication of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Knight has served with the Kentucky Baptist publication for two years. The Alabama native is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

According to Howard B. Foshee, secretary of the board's church administration department, "Knight will spearhead development of new products for pastors, deacons and church staff members. Part of his responsibility will be to edit the new magazine for deacons to be released in the fall of 1970."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Reports from South America on Crusade of the Americas meetings in Sao Paulo, Brazil and later in Rio de Janeiro are coming from Jim Newton. Floyd Craig is travelling with Newton as photographer. BP should be able to provide pictures next week of some of the sessions and personalities.

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Inner-City Study Reveals  
Need For Program Changes

7/16/68

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--Southern Baptist churches must abandon their "go-it-alone" attitude before they can accomplish much in the inner-city, a special committee studying the ministry of urban churches has declared.

The research group, a part of the seminar on urban studies, said it was imperative that Baptists in metropolitan areas work closely with other responsible groups and with private and government agencies for a more effective ministry to the urban community.

The seminar on urban studies, sponsored by Southeastern Seminary, the Home Mission Board and the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, enrolled 22 persons for the second pilot study. The four-week seminar was designed to study the special needs of metropolitan areas.

In recommending more cooperation with non-Baptist groups, the study group on "the church's ministry in an inner-city, multi-problem area" said that neither theology nor principles need to be sacrificed.

It pointed out that the problems of the inner-city are so staggering that only the combined resources of all interested parties can hope to cope with them.

The students presented their findings and recommendations after an intensive, on-the-spot study of one of the riot-torn sections of the capital city.

The students' report spelled out various programs that need to be developed by metropolitan-area churches, either working alone, with other churches of the same faith or in ecumenical projects.

It suggested that church educational programs be enlarged to include:

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- \* Literacy programs for adults and immigrants who need help with the English language;
- \* Opportunities for deprived adults to get birth control information and to learn domestic skills;
- \* Courses in Negro history, weekday study halls and field trips for ghetto children.

In addition the study group said churches should get involved in programs that provide employment information, day care for ghetto children, housing assistance for low income persons and more recreation facilities.

Citing the special needs for ghetto children who are starving for a little "elbow room," the report said that churches could help meet this need "by taking the padlocks off the church parking lots" and turning them into weekday playgrounds.

"Our churches must further refuse to allow their buildings to be large vacant barns from Monday morning until Sunday morning," the researchers said.

The report indicated that many church buildings could house indoor recreational programs while they all could provide opportunities for such activities as learning basic domestic skills.

Churches were urged to undertake a sweeping campaign to inform ghetto residents about services already available through government and private agencies. It was suggested that local ghetto residents be used in this program, and that local persons be given a vote in what new projects will have priority.

In concluding their statement on churches in multi-problem areas, seminary students said their study had revealed that the policy of "letting everything go before the deacons or before the congregation" before anything can be done is an "obsolete" method of deciding what a church will do.

Task forces should be set up within the churches, the group suggested, and should be given freedom by the congregation and deacons to determine the action needed in a particular situation.

In making its report, the seminar students praised the programs of two Baptist churches in downtown Washington -- National Baptist Memorial, located two blocks from one of the areas torn by riots last April, and Calvary Baptist Church, serving in another part of the inner-city.

In a summary report on guidelines for elements of strategy in urban ministries, the seminar participants agreed on the need for some kind of clearinghouse in metropolitan areas to maintain communication with various organizations both private and public, and to assist churches with information and help in implementing programs.

A spokesman for the seminar said the students felt this could be either a denominational agency or office, or a committee set up in cooperation with other denominations in a particular metropolis.

The faculty for this summer's seminar on urban studies included: Thomas A. Bland and E. Luther Copeland, both professors of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., George A. Torney, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia, and Walfred H. Peterson, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.

In addition, many specialists on urban life spoke to the seminar and were interviewed by the students.

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Urban Seminar Findings  
Call For New Strategy

7/16/68

WASHINGTON (BP)--"A new awareness of urban issues and problems is essential to the survival of the church as mission," a group of Baptists declared after a month-long study of the special needs of metropolitan areas.

In the concluding session of the seminar on urban studies, the Baptist-oriented group urged the denomination to intensify efforts to educate its membership on current social problems and issues and to plan programs that would prepare citizens for more political understanding and involvement.

The seminar on urban studies, a pilot project to study the problems of big cities, was sponsored for the second year by the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, Southeastern Seminary and the Home Mission Board.

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"Every Baptist gathering should become a potential platform for education and demonstration in social problems and the indicated responses in ministry," a special study group of the seminar declared. It urged that every convention be "issue-oriented" until human needs are met.

The study group identified poverty, race relations, housing, jobs, education and violence at home and abroad as high priority social issues demanding the attention of the church.

"These issues point toward the necessity for repentance and a new commitment to seek justice among men by the total Christian community," they said.

Members of the seminar affirmed their belief that evangelism is the "core purpose" of urban ministry. Evangelism must continue to be directed toward individuals, the report said, "but social structures and substructures must also be addressed through word and action toward the end of redemption through Jesus Christ."

Guidelines for a more effective strategy in urban ministry, as spelled out by the seminar participants, included the following:

- \* Creation of some kind of clearinghouse in metropolitan areas to maintain communication with various public and private organizations and to channel information and help to the churches.
- \* Establishment of state and area committees on public affairs.
- \* More information from denomination agencies on matters of social and political concern.
- \* Increased opportunities for politicians to "speak to and be spoken to by Baptists on all levels."
- \* Programs within the church's educational processes that would prepare persons for more involvement in federal, state and local politics.
- \* Encouragement and guidance in helping individual Christians work through their church and community organizations to exercise influence and power on legislation needed to bring about social justice.
- \* Priority program of training lay persons and involving them in problems of a metropolitan ministry, particularly along the lines of their vocational interests.

Twenty-two persons registered for the four-week seminar on urban studies.

The faculty for the seminar included Thomas A. Bland and E. Luther Copeland, professors at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C., George A. Torney, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., and Walfred H. Peterson, staff member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington. In addition, the program featured lectures and interviews by many urban life specialists.

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Mother Of Prominent  
Southern Baptists Dies

7/16/68

HERRIN, Ill. (BP)--Mrs. J. H. Graves, 78, mother of two Southern Baptist seminary officials died here on July 14 after an extended illness.

She was the mother of Harold K. Graves, president, of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California, and Allen W. Graves, dean of the School of Religious Education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Mrs. Graves is also survived by two daughters and one other son. She had 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

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