

(BP) -- FEATURES

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Korean Baptist Says Return Of Pueblo Crew Was Surprise

By Jimmy Ballard

LOUISVILLE (BP)--A Korean Baptist pastor, twice elected president of the Korean Baptist Convention, said here the torture of the Pueblo ship crew by North Koreans was no surprise to him, but the real surprise was that the Pueblo crew was allowed to return.

"The torture seemed cruel to Americans, but it was not surprising to us because we saw much worse torture during the war--such as burning of bodies and cutting out eyes and tongues," said Timothy Hyo-Moon Cho, who is studying at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

"One year of torture was a long and difficult experience for the crewmen of the Pueblo, but not long enough for the Korean Communists to break down their will to return. During the negotiations, when release of the crewmen seemed imminent, I did not really believe the return of the crew would take place," Cho said.

Naturally, Cho is more than casually interested in the Pueblo case. The ship was captured one week after he left his family in Seoul, South Korea, to come to Southern Seminary to study on a doctoral degree.

And when the Pueblo crew was released, Cho said he rejoiced with the American people. Furthermore, he added that he would be "very unhappy if they (the crew members) were punished in a court martial."

The friendly Korean, pastor of Seoul Baptist Church, tries to stay well-informed on world events. His daily mail includes the Korean edition of The Korean Times, and a phot -c py of a Korean daily newspaper sent to Koreans in America from Washington, D. C.

When he first learned of the Pueblo's capture, he said that Koreans "were indignant and were humiliated when the United States failed to act immediately to regain the ship and crew.

Cho said he felt concerned about the explosive incident occurring so soon after leaving his family. But, he explained, "Our people are accustomed to living under tension since the war, and they were prepared to fight if necessary."

Cho is working on a doctor of theology degree in church history at the seminary. He was converted in 1951 after he fled from the Communist invasion in Soonchun, South Korea, to Pusan, where he became a houseboy for John A. Abernathy, the first Southern Baptist missionary to Korea. He stayed with Abernathy, now retired and living in Arkansas, until completing his college work in 1954. It was then that he felt a call to full-time Christian service.

Cho was twice elected president of the Korean Baptist Convention, serving as the convention's top leader from 1965-1968. He called the office "a very difficult job for a young man to undertake."

One of two associate pastors is acting pastor of the Seoul Baptist Church, largest Baptist church in Korea, during Cho's absence.

Koreans enjoy a generous religious freedom, he said, except for a criminal law against insulting government officials in public, including statements in church sermons. Although Koreans have a democratic government somewhat patterned after the American model, the Baptist pastor pointed out what he feels is a significant difference in interpretation of freedom of speech:

"We have not had student riots since the overthrow of President Syngman Rhee by student demonstrators in 1959. The government takes strong measures against demonstrations, but students are allowed to express their grievances in writing," he said.

Cho's college major, English, is no surprise to anyone who talks to him. He smiles warmly when complimented on his flawless English with scarcely a trace of accent. Cho credits not only English classes in high school and college, but also the presence of American soldiers who help Koreans learn the language.

The Korean pastor is not only studying in an American seminary, but he is also helping to teach Americans a little bit about Korea. At his request, the seminary library subscribes to the English language edition of The Korean Times to enable fellow students to follow events in his homeland.

Piece of Wire Shapes
Christian Pilgrimage

By James Evans McReynolds

NASHVILLE (BP)--What would you do if someone gave you a simple piece of wire and told you to shape your Christian pilgrimage with it?

Some would frown, others would think, "Are you kidding?" Some would giggle, others would laugh. But for Bill Hayes, senior high-college director for Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, a piece of wire became a source of an enriching Christian experience.

It happened at the Mid-South Recreation Lab at Peach Creek Baptist Assembly, Houston, sponsored by the church recreation department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Frank Hart Smith, the board's social recreation consultant here, had shared his personal testimony during a seminar session. He told of his little daughter, then in first grade, who had wanted to tell him something during the middle of the sermon during worship the Sunday before Valentine's Day. She was persistent in her plea, but Daddy was equally resistant and told her to shut up.

She then started to draw something on a piece of paper, folded it, and handed it to her daddy.

He opened it and read, "To Daddy from Betsy Brown. I do not love Daddy. Daddy won't listen to me."

Smith then related how this experience had changed his relationship to his daughter and to Christ. He started listening.

Then he gave the group this assignment: Take a small piece of wire and express your own personal Christian pilgrimage by bending the wire into any shape that expresses your feelings.

"It was such a simple thing, yet for me it was the highlight of my spiritual life," Hayes related.

"As I shaped the wire, five images came to my mind. If Frank Hart Smith had not shared his experience about his little girl, I would never have begun thinking in this pattern.

"The first image that came to my mind was of a little girl named Shelia Wilson. I was five years old and Shelia was my faithful playmate. One day she did not come to play, for you see, Shelia had a disease which took her life. I remembered going to my mother and asking, 'Where is Shelia? Why doesn't she come out to play?'

"Then I first heard the word 'God.' 'Shelia has gone to be with God in heaven,' my mother had replied. This was the beginning of my search, a search to know more about God.

"This also started a search for my mother a young Christian, who knew there would be other questions--questions she could not answer.

"The next image was of a sixth grade girl named Sue Cook, who lived before me her Christian testimony. This caused me to ask a basic question, the most important question I have ever pursued, 'Who is Jesus Christ?'

"The third image was of my mother who had the answer and who helped me to find Christ as my personal Saviour.

"The fourth image was of my wife, Alice. I had helped lead her to know Christ, but now she is the one who keeps me humble in my walk with God.

"The last image was of a child, our child yet to be born. I thought of this child as given by the Creator to begin once again the Christian pilgrimage," Hayes said.

"A silly piece of wire? Yes, and a silly wire sculpture, too. But, through it God's power moved in my life," Hayes concluded.

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Baptist Press

Seminarian's Wife Receives
Award For Welfare Stories

LOUISVILLE (BP)--A series of articles written by the wife of a Southern Baptist Seminary student for a Georgia newspaper has been chosen as "the most outstanding piece of writing in the field of social welfare in the state during 1968."

Mrs. Marlon Lastinger wrote the series while serving as social editor--feature writer for the Forest Blade in Swainsboro, Ga. The articles dealt with the foster home program of the Swainsboro Department of Family and Children Services.

The Georgia Conference on Social Welfare made the award, stating that "concern of people like Mrs. Lastinger for the problems of our fellow human beings is vital to the progress of social welfare efforts in our state."

Mrs. Lastinger is now alumni editor of The Tie, the seminary's monthly newsmagazine, and is secretary to the executive assistant to the president. She will receive a cash award of \$100 from the Georgia Conference on Social Welfare.

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Richardson Named Brotherhood
Special Materials Assistant

(3-11-69)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Darrell C. Richardson, director of Camp Ridgecrest for Boys, Ridgecrest, N.C. the past three years, has been named assistant editor of special materials for the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

Prior to his employment by the Baptist Sunday School Board at Ridgecrest, he was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Auburn, Ky., for five years.

Richardson has written numerous articles and curriculum materials for Southern Baptist publications. He currently is a fiction consultant for Dodd, Mead Publishing Co., New York. In addition, he has written and sold over 100 stories and articles to various national magazines under his own name and three pseudonyms. He has been a professional literary critic and book reviewer since 1945.

A native of Flat River, Mo., Richardson is a graduate of Furman University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was associate pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., in 1945-46 and pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church, Covington, Ky. from 1947 to 1954.

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Cartwright Named Editor
Of Planning Materials

(3-11-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--James Cartwright has been named editor of church planning materials, church administration department, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A native of Bessemer, Ala., Cartwright received his bachelor of arts degree at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. He also is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. with bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees.

Cartwright has served as pastor of Glebe Baptist Church, Arlington, Va. He came to the board from the Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

He has also served churches in summer positions in South Carolina, Alabama, and as associate pastor, Tacoma Park Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.

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C O R R E C T I O N

On BP story headlined "Alabama Baptists Vote \$10,000 For Biafrican-Nigeria Relief," (dated 3-7-69), please kill paragraph four to delete phrase that SBC has already given \$100,000 in relief, etc. Begin 5th graph as sent with this sentence: "The plea was made by Lewis White, pastor of the West End Baptist Church in Birmingham." (then pickup with "The administration committee, headed by John Bob Riddle...." as sent).

Also, change story throughout to read Nigerian-Biafran, rather than Biafrican-Nigerian. The placement of Nigerian in first order is important. Likewise, Biafran is spelled with only one "i" rather than two. Thanks.

--Baptist Press



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With feature mailed 3-11-69

NEWS FROM KOREA--Timothy Hyo-Hoon Cho, pastor of the Seoul Baptist Church in the capital city of South Korea, interprets the headlines in The Korean Times, a daily newspaper, to his faculty advisor, W. Morgan Patterson (right) of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where Cho is a student. The doctoral degree candidate expresses strong feeling about the capture of The Pueblo ship by North Koreans. (BP) Photo

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