



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

---FEATURES

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April 7, 1970

Students Use Spring Break For Witness in Pioneer Areas

by James McReynolds

NASHVILLE (BP)--While many college and university students headed south to the beaches, for their spring breaks, 53 Tennessee university students and their Baptist student directors headed north.

Instead of basking, in the sun of southern beach areas, the students became part of a visitation project to campuses located in areas where snow was part of spring.

Their purpose was to witness in campus communities where little or no Baptist student work exists.

"We received much more than we gave," Miss Vel Spurlin, a member of a team from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn., related.

"The encounter with a people of different values and ideals helped us to grow as Christians," she added.

"Individually the students made little impact, but together as an open, willing group, they paved the way for dialogue and discussion that will lead to establishing campus ministries," Keith Harris, state student director, Baptist Convention of Maryland said.

The visitation teams were from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City; Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville; the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Martin, Memphis and Chattanooga branches; Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, and Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

The project was financed through the summer missions fund of the Tennessee Baptist Student Unions.

Shelley Richardson, associate, student department, Tennessee Baptist Convention, coordinated the project. He assigned teams of students as requested by student work leaders in New York, Ohio, Michigan, Delaware, Maryland and Massachusetts.

Teams generally consisted of five students and one supervisor from each university. Supervisors were local student directors.

"The method is used by most of the teams were traditional as homecoming, but they accomplished the goal of sharing a relevant faith," Glenn Yarbrough, secretary, student department, Tennessee Baptist Convention said,

"Nobody can witness to students like students," he added.

The Vanderbilt team was assigned Columbia University, New York. Other assignments included Tennessee Tech to Eastern Michigan State University, Ypsilanti, Mich.; East Tennessee State to the University of Delaware, Newark; University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, to Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and the University of Cincinnati; University of Tennessee Medical Units, Memphis, to Muskingam and Marietta Colleges, Marietta, Ohio, and University of Tennessee, Martin, to Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Mich.

Some found difficulty in contacting students, "I made 30 phone calls and reached just one guy. He wasn't interested," Jim Berry, a member of the Vanderbilt team, said.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, team visited 450 homes in Jamaica, N.Y. They worked with James Wright, pastor, Highland Avenue Baptist Church. The visitation resulted in locating only four prospects for the church's ministry.

Tennessee Tech students had a special interest in the work at Eastern Michigan. They had aided their BSU program financially for the past three years.

Miss Linda Miller, director of student work at the University of Delaware, was herself a product of the Baptist Student Union ministry of East Tennessee State University.

Assigned to the Baltimore area was the Middle Tennessee State University team. The students began the week with an evangelism workshop, which was directed by Keith Harris.

They witnessed on three campuses, Towson and Morgan State Colleges and Western Maryland College.

One night they were invited to the Baptist Club, an organization of various Baptist denominations on the campus of Morgan State.

"Baptist Club members were impressed with the fearless enthusiasm the Tennessee students had shown in the dormitory and dining hall witnessing," Harris said.

Discussion between the Tennessee team and the Baptist Club lasted until past midnight.

Personal discussion was also part of the witness ministry of the Austin Peay student team. Working with John Hughson, pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Boston, they visited Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology campuses.

They also assisted Duane Ivey, pastor, Chelsea Baptist Chapel, by witnessing through folk music and dialogue with youth at "The Welcome Inn," a coffeehouse.

Chelsea is a slum district of Boston with 26,000 persons living in an area of 1.8 miles square.

"Sensing the needs for children in the Chelsea area, we conducted a two day trial Day Care Center," Miss Vel Spurlin said.

"Response to our summer mission aspect of student ministries has been less than in previous years, yet response to this visitation project was overwhelming.

"This reflects the changing trends in student ministries caused by economic, educational and personal factors.

"The contacts these students made in the new convention territories will be invaluable as they assume places of leadership in the church," Richardson said.



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April 7, 1970

**Three Receive Top Cash
Awards For Baptist PR**

CHICAGO (BP)--For the first time, the Baptist Public Relations Association presented three cash awards to its members for outstanding contributions in religious public relations, plus awarding 21 plaques for first place honors in specific areas.

The three \$50 cash awards went to John Earl Seelig of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, for its total publications program; to Tom Brannon of the South Carolina State Convention for its public relations project at the annual meeting of the state body; and to Jim Newton of Baptist Press for news coverage of Baptist response to Hurricane Camille.

The cash awards to Seelig and Brannon were funded by entry fees by the association members in the competition.

The award for Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, was funded by the All-Church Press and named The Douglas Tomlinson All-Church Press Award for significant achievement in religious journalism. Tomlinson is chairman of the board for All-Church Press in Fort Worth and is a pioneer in the field of religious journalism.

In addition to the three cash awards, plaques for first place honors in sixteen separate categories were presented.

The winners were selected from 212 entries by 29 different institutions, agencies, and organizations, by a panel of public relations professionals from outside the denomination framework.

Floyd A. Craig, public relations director for the SBC Christian Life Commission, said it was the largest number of entries in the association's history. Craig was chairman of the awards committee.

Of the winners in specific categories, six of the top awards went to the public relations office for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas, which won in the areas of poster and promotion folders, publications for special events, film production, advertisements, feature photography and publications photography.

Both Baylor University in Waco, Tex., and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, won three award each.

Baylor won honors for its annual report, a development brochure, and general information literature.

Personnel of the SBC Brotherhood Commission won recognition for their magazine, Ambassador Life, for a feature article in the Brotherhood Journal and for a poster.

Winning two awards each were the Baptist Press for the news story category and The Douglas Tomlinson award; and the SBC Home Mission Board, whose staff members received awards in news photography and publications for special events.

Four organizations won one first place each. They are the Baptist Sunday School Board an annual report, the SBC Radio-TV Commission for a film, the SBC Annuity Board and the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, which tied in the filmstrip category. There were ties in six different categories.

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Fields Elected President
Of Baptist PR Association

4/7/70

CHICAGO (BP)--The Baptist Public Relations Association elected W. C. Fields, public relations secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, as its new president, and for the first time named a woman as president-elect.

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Miss Marjorie Saunders, public relations director for Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, was elected to assume the top leadership post for the organization next year when the association meets next year.

Elected program vice president was Wesley M. (Pat) Pattillo, assistant to the president at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville and named membership vice president was Stanton Nash, assistant to the president at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley.

Named secretary for the association was Mrs. Agnes Ford, retired public relations representative for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and elected newsletter editor was Mrs. Evelyn Strickland of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Fields, new president of the organization, has also served as president of the Religious Public Relations Council, the Associated Church Press, and the Middle Tennessee Chapter of Public Relations Society of America.

Next year the association will meet in Charleston, S.C., with plans to meet in San Antonio, Tex., in 1972 and San Francisco, Calif., in 1973.

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Baptist Leader In Liberia,
John B. Falconer Dies

4/7/70

RICHMOND (BP)-- John B. Falconer, pastor of Liberia's historic Providence Baptist Church and a native of Mississippi, died April 5 in Greenville, Liberia, while attending a Baptist meeting.

Falconer, in Greenville for the annual meeting of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, was a guest in the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Oren C. Robinson Jr. He died in his sleep.

He has been a leader in Liberian Baptist work for almost a quarter of a century. Pastor of Providence Church, Monrovia, since 1962, he was also a missionary of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., for 19 years.

Providence, the oldest and largest Baptist church in Liberia--it is 25 years older than the Liberian republic itself -- has its roots in the U.S. It was organized in 1821 by a group of freed slaves meeting in First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. That year the full membership of the newly constituted church sailed across the Atlantic and planted itself on west Africa soil.

Falconer was born in Shubuta, Miss., "near Pachuta," as he was fond of saying by a way of explanation. He attended Prentice (Miss.) Normal Industrial Institute; after teaching for two years in a rural Mississippi school, he entered Lincoln University, Near Oxford, Pa., graduating in 1939.

Returning to Prentice, he became pastor of First Baptist Church there and religious education director at the institute.

He first went to Liberia in 1943 as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. This was his introduction to Foreign mission work there. When he returned to the states he was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention to supervise their west African work. In 1946 he went back to Liberia to live there the rest of his life.

After assuming the pastorate of Providence church he retained his connections with the National Baptist Mission Board until 1964.

Among Falconer's survivors are his widow, the former Ann Stiles of Savannah, Ga., and their two married daughters, who live in the states.

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BP PHOTO MAILED SEPARATELY TO BAPTIST STATE PAPER EDITORS.

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NOTE: Burial will be April 16 in Liberia. It is the wish of the family that he be buried in that country. (April 16 has been confirmed as date, though this is 11 days after death, we assume the body will lie in state for that time.)

"Upward" Creative Arts
Winners Announced

NASHVILLE (BP)--Winners of the 1970 Upward Creative Arts Competition have been announced by the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Entries in the seventh annual competition came from high school youth 13-17 over the entire Southern Baptist Convention. They were judged on suitability of subject matter for inclusion in Upward magazine; on creativity, depth of thought, style, clarity of expression and spiritual significance. Judges were chosen from Upward's board of consulting editors.

Award-winning entries will be published in the October 1970 issue of Event, the leisure reading periodical replacing Upward.

The following winners were announced:

Fiction: First award, Bruce B. Anderson, Savannah, Ga., member of First Baptist Church, Savannah, \$15. Second award, Carol Jean Lewis, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., \$10.

Essay: First award, Selah Moore, Red Bud, Ill., member of First Baptist Church, Red Bud, \$10. Second award, Kathy Finney, Eden, N.C., member of Dan Valley Baptist Center, \$5.

Poetry: First award Carol Childers, Dallas, Tex., member of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, \$7.50. Second award, Jeanne Killebrew, Madison, Ala, member of First Baptist Church, Madison, \$5.

Black-and-white drawing: First award, Robert Earl Johnson, Blytheville, Ark., member of First Baptist Church, Blytheville, \$10. Second award, Annette Shroll, Sulphur, La., member of Trinity Baptist Church, Sulphur, \$5.

Photography: First award, Tyler M. Moore, Salem, Va., member of Ridgewood Baptist Church, Salem, \$10. Second award, Zane Michael Scarlett, Knoxville, Tenn., member of South Knoxville Baptist Church, \$5.

The 1971 contest includes a category in sculpture. Deadline for entries is Dec. 31, 1970. Complete contest rules will be published in the October 1970 issue of Event.



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