

(BP)--FEATURES

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

April 14, 1970

Baptist Center in Manila Attracting Many Students

by Robert L. Stanley
Southern Baptist Missionary to the Philippines

MANILA (BP)--In recent months, students from the university district of Manila have joined others in the city in numerous demonstrations and protest marches seeking national reforms. Several have been killed and hundreds injured in riots that have resulted.

In the midst of this congested, noisy area, Southern Baptists have embarked on a vigorous student ministry. A new two-story Baptist Student Center was opened last October to help meet the spiritual needs of an estimated 250,000 students who attend schools within the 10-block sector.

Despite recent student unrest, an average of 680 new college students each month are being attracted to the program. Since October, 127 students have made personal commitment of their lives to Christ, 16 of them asking for baptism.

In the same period more than 3,400 students have asked for activity cards, and hundreds of others come and go at the center.

Probably most of those who visit the center are attracted by the clean, relaxing facilities which the new \$60,000 building offers. In a roomy area downstairs they may read, study, play table games and sip coke or pepsi at a snack bar.

Upstairs a library offers a quieter place for reading or study, and the roof of the building is designed for recreational use.

Some come in from the hot sidewalks and join friends at wrought-iron tables on two terraces, where water trickles down rock walls lined with orchids and other tropical plants.

Director William R. Wakefield, Southern Baptist missionary who initiated student work in Manila in 1962, says the new building has caused a marked increase in student interest. "The building is a symbol that there is something here for them," he explains.

Gothic-style windows on the front and a piano at the rear of the main room are about the only hints of a religious atmosphere. But students, seeing a difference in their friends who have become Christians, tell Wakefield they want what their friends have found.

The evangelism program of the center is not left to chance. It is a well-planned effort in which Wakefield is assisted by two full-time associates, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cabalang, and by some 10 Baptist Student Union (BSU) members who have been trained in witnessing and counseling. A program to train still more is being prepared.

The center first gets information on a student when he fills out an activity card, required before he can check out games or other equipment. If he also wants to become a member of the BSU, he gives a brief statement of his religious beliefs.

In processing this application, Wakefield or one of his assistants sets up an interview. The Gospel of John is used as the basis for a Christian witness. Wakefield talks with students in either Tagalog, the chief native language of the Philippines, or a mixture of Tagalog and English.

Five or six students make professions of faith in Christ in these sessions every week, Wakefield said. Each student is given the Gospel of John, and is asked to complete a five-part Bible study course.

A counselor meets with the new Christian after he has completed each section of the course, discusses the material covered, and offers any needed guidance.

At the conclusion of this process, the person's name is presented to the BSU Council for assignment to a BSU committee. This group helps to involve the student in the program and give him the Christian friendship he needs as a new follower of Christ's way, Wakefield explained.

April 14, 1970

2

Baptist Press Feature

Students can apply directly for the Bible study course, without making application for BSU membership, and in such cases the witnessing session may come at the course's completion.

The new Christians are encouraged to participate in Manila-area churches were possible, but some prefer to attend services conducted each Sunday at the center. In addition to a worship service, Sunday School and youth fellowships are held each Sunday.

Mrs. Wakefield has worked closely with her husband in the student program. Her major responsibility is for special events and for the Christian leadership committee of the BSU.

The Wakefields, who will begin a furlough in the states this spring, will be missionaries in residence for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Journeyman orientation at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C.

After that they will go to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where Wakefield plans to work toward the doctor of sacred theology degree.

-30-

BP PHOTO being mailed to state Baptist editors.



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 14, 1970

Strip tease Club "Closed Forever,"
Owner Sells for Religious Bookstore

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (BP)--"Closed Forever" read the sign on the door of the Green Gate, a strip tease club here for 17 years.

Owner Guy Linton said he had "changed over to the Lord's side" and was shutting down the night club for good.

Linton made his decision in the club after hearing a message by Bob Harrington, a Southern Baptist evangelist from New Orleans better known as the "chaplain of Bourbon Street."

Linton, who had been dubbed in show business magazines as the "King of the Strippers," met Harrington when the preacher was conducting evangelistic services in the Castle Hills Baptist Church here.

Harrington asked permission to address the Green Gate audience and Linton granted the request.

During Harrington's visit to the club, Mrs. Linton was invited to a debate between Harrington and Madelyn Murray O'Hare, catalyst for the Supreme Court's ruling against compulsory prayer in the classroom.

Speaking of the debate, Mrs. Linton remarked, "after watching Madelyn Murray O'Hare and listening to her I'm convinced I want to be a Christian."

Following their decision the Lintons went to the club and announced to the strippers and other employees the Green Gate was closing and then made plans for a formal closing service.

"A lot of Christians were in the club and there was standing room only," according to Jack Taylor, pastor of the Castle Hills Baptist Church. "Several of the customers were shocked and scrambled out of the place but a number of others remained."

Taylor said there was applause after the Lintons expressed their desire "to follow Christ." After Harrington's closing prayer, spontaneous singing broke out.

"The words of 'Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow' filled the semi-darkened atmosphere of the club," Taylor added.

He also pointed out that just before the Green Gate was padlocked, several of the strippers and the master of ceremonies had been converted to Christianity.

Taylor said shock and disbelief where registered in the entertainment and business world in San Antonio when the Lintons announced in a press conference they would sell their property to Harrington's evangelistic association.

The evangelist announced plans to use it as a religious book and record store and inner-city ministry outreach center.

Now a sign in the window of the former club reads: "Green Gate Club Closed Forever. See You In Church."

-30-

"Bend At Joints" To Meet Need,
Senator Mondale Urges Church

4/14/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--"Unless Christians become involved in politics--partisan politics--I don't know if this country will ever measure up to what it wants to be, claims to be, or, indeed, if it will survive," declared Senator Walter F. Mondale (D., Minn.) to a group of church women gathered here.

After discussing the domestic problems of hunger, poverty and educating the disadvantage," Sen. Mondale said the church "above all must start bending at the joints" to take part in the political processes in identifying with these needs.

The senator's speech marked the opening session of a legislative seminar, sponsored by National Church Women United, an arm of the National Council of Churches. Eighty women from 29 states and the District of Columbia registered for the five-day meeting to be briefed on techniques and procedures to effect legislative action.

"Somehow Christians believe the political processes are dirty, obscene and corrupt," Sen. Mondale continued. A Presbyterian layman, the senator said it is not possible to move the government in the direction of meeting human needs without the involvement of church people in what many call "dirty" politics.

In referring to the image of our society to millions of Americans for whom life is a constant despair and hopelessness, Sen. Mondale said: "We are not as humane and generous as we claim to be. We are not a very pretty people."

Sen. Mondale said he would not have made this "harsh statement" five years ago, but in working on senate subcommittees dealing with the needs of migrants, Indians, the elderly and the particular problems of malnutrition, he had been able to look behind the scenes "and see American life as it really is."

The senator urged the women, coming from many denominations, to work for legislation that would increase aid for poor countries and would provide "justice and compassion" to underlie the necessary law and order for the country.

"It is time to hear the cry of the hungry child in the streets," he concluded.

The chairman of the seminar, the first such legislative briefing planned by Church Women United, was Mrs. Eugene McCarthy, a Catholic, and the wife of Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D., Minn.).

-30-

Hungarian Churches Celebrate
25th Anniversary of Liberation

4/14/70

BUDAPEST (BP)--Baptists and other national free churches in Hungary celebrated together the 25th anniversary of Hungary's post-war liberation by the Russian army here.

The service celebrating the liberation took place in one of the largest Baptist churches in Budapest, but the church was not named in a report from the official Hungarian Church Press.

The news agency reported that a resolution was adopted by the meeting expressing thanks to God "for having permitted us to live in peace and security, to confess our faith freely and to serve the good of our fellowmen with good conscience."

A cantata was presented by a united choir of Adventists and Baptists.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

AVL. G. WOOLLEY 80
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

RECEIVED APR 15 1970
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC