

May 25, 1970

MK Coed, Off To Zambia,
Ponders Campus Problems

by June P. Carter

RICHMOND (BP)--"It's Yantastic," she said, "--the pull to go back."

Esther Small, a missionary kid (MK) who grew up in Africa, spoke wistfully of such things as the rainy season in Zambia as she chatted with a visitor at Westhampton College on The University of Richmond campus.

"You miss it," she said with a note of nostalgia in her voice.

Not quite 18, she would soon be taking the final exams that would wind up her freshman year there. Then, three days later, she would take a flight to rejoin her parents, Southern Baptist Missionaries Tom and Mary Small, and her two younger brothers, for the summer vacation.

This year, for the first time, she was separated from her parents--they are half-a-world away in Zambia, in the heart of Southern Africa. Except during furloughs in the states, Esther spent most of her school years in Zambia.

Although being an MK often involves loneliness and separation from loved ones, it does offer compensations. Esther cites lack of prejudice and the opportunity to travel as two of them. Because she has traveled extensively--she has also been in Europe and the Middle East--she believes her view of the world is wider than that of many people. "A friend of mine thinks the United States is the world, and his mother thinks Virginia is!"

National allegiance for a MK is not the problem some might think. Although Esther loves Africa dearly and has spent little time in her native land, she is very much aware of being an American.

Esther talked about campus disorder: Students need to be concerned about vital issues, but she neither agrees with strikes and violence nor sees the logic in using violence as a means of protesting violence and war.

She believes some of the unrest comes from pre-examination tension: "Everybody's all keyed up at exam time." Some students, in her opinion, strike simply to avoid examinations, knowing they will get complimentary mid-semester grades at the end of the term without the agony of exams.

Violence, she said, can erupt from peaceful gatherings of concerned students, when one or two agitators become emotional and others fall under their influence.

"The college and university students of today," she added, "are the leaders of tomorrow. The best way they can change things is to stay in school and get the education they need for the job ahead. Even if your classes don't relate to what you're going to be doing later, and even if they don't come up to what you expect, there's still a discipline to education that is valuable."

Esther isn't altogether sure of her goals yet. She is considering a medical career, so her major is biology. But she isn't sure how well medicine and marriage will mix, and she hasn't ruled out marriage.

Esther said that when her family lived on the Sanyati Reserve in Rhodesia she first became interested in medicine through being around the Baptist Hospital there with "Uncle Giles and Aunt Wana Ann. They are Dr. and Mrs. M. Giles Fort, who have served as medical missionaries at Sanyati Baptist Hospital for almost 17 years.

Unlike many missionary children, she is not bi-lingual. Various dialects are spoken in Zambia, but the country's official language is English. "I know greetings and a few other words in Nyanja," she said, "but I doubt I'd be able to ask the time of day fluently."

If she does go into medicine she may practice in the United States, or she may return to her beloved Africa. Another possibility exists: Since her visit to the Middle East last summer she has decided that "once you've been there you want to go back."

Esther doesn't know whether her possible future in medicine will include missions. "But I can't see myself set up in an office making lots of money. That's not what I want. Wherever I am, I want to be helping people. Where you are doesn't matter; the important thing is what you're doing. People are people no matter where you are."



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Top SBC Churches in Evangelism
Depend on Sunday School as Tool

NASHVILLE (BP)--Pastors whose churches led the Southern Baptist Convention in evangelism during 1969 credited the Sunday School organization for their success.

"The pastor will do a more productive job in evangelism if he will use the Sunday School as his primary tool," said John A. Turpin, pastor of Beth Haven Baptist Church, Valley Station, Ky.

The Beth Haven church led the Southern Baptist Convention both in the number of baptisms, and the comparative rate of baptisms in relation to Sunday School enrollment, a new system of comparing baptisms among Southern Baptist churches devised by the research and statistics department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Beth Haven Baptist Church, which baptized 576 persons in 1969, led the SBC in rate of baptisms for churches with 1,500 or more enrolled in Sunday School. Based on the number of baptisms for every 1,000 persons enrolled in Sunday School, Beth Haven had a rate of 193.

The Southern Baptist Convention as a whole had a baptism rate of 49.6.

"The rates were based on 1,000 because this seems to be the fairest, most accurate way of putting all size churches in perspective," said Martin Bradley, secretary of the research and statistics department for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Because churches in one size category should not be compared with churches in another size category in terms of number of baptisms alone, the research and statistics department used the computer to select the churches in 10 categories that had the highest baptism rates based on Sunday School enrollment."

"There is no way of arriving at a perfect system of evaluating evangelism, but this approach is more equitable than previous methods used," Bradley added.

Some Southern Baptists think that the number of baptisms is an indication of spiritual state of the church, while others feel one cannot measure quality of spirituality by quantity of baptisms.

The statistical tabulation was based on the uniform church letters sent to each Baptist association. Copies are mailed to the convention office here by each association in the denomination.

In the smallest category, 1-49 Sunday School enrollment, Lake Crest Baptist Church, Eau Gallie, Fla., with 8 persons enrolled in Sunday School and 12 total baptisms, led in baptism rate. However, First Southern Baptist Church, Walnut, Calif., had the highest number of baptisms in this category with 42 conversions.

Leader in baptism rate in the 50-99 Sunday School enrollment category was Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Albion, Mich.

"Our Sunday School plays the largest role in our program of evangelism," said M. H. Wheller, pastor of Mt. Calvary church.

"We try to reach every friend of every member of every family in the church. For those we enlist we try to provide the best fellowship possible," Wheeler added.

Trinity Baptist Church, Victoria, Tex., with 47 conversions had the highest number of baptisms in the 50-99 Sunday School enrollment category.

For the 100-199 Sunday School enrollment category, Beaver Creek Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio, had the highest rate of baptisms, as well as the highest number of baptisms, with 81.

A church that baptized 202 persons with a Sunday School enrollment of 239 led in the category of churches with 200-299 enrollment. Southview Baptist Church, Waukegan, Ill., was led by James Smith, pastor, in its evangelistic outreach during 1969.

Langston Memorial Baptist Church, Conway, S.C., led SBC churches in the 300-399 Sunday School enrollment category in baptism rate.

In the same category, Southside Baptist Church, Suffolk, Va., led in total number of baptisms with 113.

Calvary Baptist Church, Bainbridge, Ga., led the SBC in baptism rate and also total number of baptisms with 152 in the 400-499 Sunday School enrollment category.

Calvary Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, Colo. led in both baptism rate and total number of baptisms in the 500-599 Sunday School enrollment category. Pastor Norman Presley baptized 177 persons during 1969.

"We stress Bible study and Bible teaching in our Sunday School," said Hershel Turner, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Riverdale, Ga.

Emmanuel church led the SBC in the 750-999 Sunday School enrollment category in rate of baptisms.

Gardendale Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Tex., led in the highest number of baptisms in the same category with 159.

Leader in both rate and total number of baptisms in the 1,000-1,499 Sunday School enrollment category was San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex. The San Jacinto church had a total of 178 baptisms in 1969.

The Glendale Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., was a close second in both rate of baptisms. Richard P. Oldham, pastor, baptized 175 persons into the Glendale church in 1969.

"Sunday School plays a vital role in evangelism," Oldham said. "We have had a revitalization of our Sunday School in the past two years and we thank God for what he has done through the Sunday School."

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Glynn Mathis to Manage
Southwest College Store

5/25/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has contracted with Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., to provide management services for its book store.

The move is an expansion of the ministry of the campus stores department of the book store division, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Glynn Mathis of New Orleans has been named manager of the store.

Located in the Felix Goodson College Union, the new store was dedicated during commencement exercises at the college.

"We are quite excited about the prospect of offering our book store management services on the campus of Southwest Baptist College," said Bill Graham, manager, campus stores department at the board.

"We plan to make every effort to provide the quality of merchandise that the administration and faculty desire. We plan to have as wide a selection of paperback and trade books as any other store of comparable size," Graham said.

"We realize that no educational institution can afford to be without the important educational outlet of a first class book store.

"We further believe that rising operational costs and increasing demands on the administrative staff often mean an institution is unable to devote needed attention to organization, policy and function of the book store," Graham added.

The manager of the store, Glynn Mathis, is a native of Louisiana and a graduate of Louisiana College, Pineville, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned the doctor of theology degree.

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A church that baptized 101 persons with a Sunday School enrollment of 239 led in the category of churches with 200-299 enrollment. Southview Baptist Church, Naukegan, Ill., was led by James Smith, pastor, in its evangelistic outreach during 1969.

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Mathis served as pastor of Twin Bridges Baptist Mission, Alexandria, La., and the Head of Island Baptist Church, Head of Island, La., while in seminary.

Since August, 1968, he has been seminary sales-coordinator in the New Orleans Baptist Book Store.

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937 Students Appointed
As HMB Summer Missionaries

5/25/70

ATLANTA (BP)--A record 937 students have been appointed as student summer missionaries, to serve under the supervision of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in every state in the nation and Puerto Rico and Panama.

About 196 of the 937 total have been appointed by state Baptist Student Union organizations for mission work in the homeland under the board's supervision.

More than half the total will be directly or indirectly involved in the inner-city or resort ministries during the summer, reflecting Southern Baptists' increasing interest in Christian social ministries, according to Home Mission Board officials.

Special inner city projects will be held in Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Worcester and Boston, Mass., Watts and Los Angeles, Harlem, and St. Louis.

Don Hammonds, associate secretary of the Home Mission Board's department of special mission ministries, said this growing interest in social ministries has intensified during the last two years.

"It's because interest has increased in ministering to people in need because they are in need and not because of what it might do to increase statistics," he said. Hammonds supervises the appointing and assigning of students.

He was quick to point out the effectiveness of traditional programs, however. "In Watts, for example, one of the most successful avenues to ministry has been Vacation Bible Schools."

The department is concerned but not surprised by the scarcity of men appointees. Of the 741 students appointed directly by the board, only 193 are single men. Hammonds attributes this to the pressure of military service and the man's ability to secure a job carrying a larger salary.

"We could use twice as many men as we have, though," he said. "The change in mission emphasis demands more men and more married couples."

The growing number of appointees has not diminished the quality. "In fact the quality is getting better," Hammonds said. "If we were to lose a student who has been assigned we could plug in with a student equally qualified (from the 90-plus alternates).

Budget limitations prevent us from assigning additional students who are well qualified," he added.

Student summer missionaries are usually college upper-classmen, although a few freshmen and seminarians are appointed. They work for 10 weeks during the summer, receiving a small stipend from the board.

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NOTE TO STATE BAPTIST PAPER EDITORS: List of appointees from your state to be mailed direct from the Home Mission Board.

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